

message. It signals that it is permissible to discriminate based on sexual orientation. I find this particularly inappropriate for the Federal government which should be doing everything possible to discourage all forms of discrimination.

Last fall, at my request, the Subcommittee on Civil Service held a series of hearings on employment discrimination in the Federal workplace. During these hearings, the current evidence of discriminatory conduct in the Federal workplace was overwhelming. I asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to look into this matter, and in a report issued last month GAO found that the number of Federal employee discrimination complaints has risen sharply over the past few years. Clearly, more must be done to stamp out discrimination. What the Helfey amendment does is promote it.

RECOGNITION OF LEESBURG STUDENTS IN AAA "NATIONAL AUTO SKILLS" CONTEST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize two young students. They are Jason Kmak, age 17, and Gregory J. Welch, age 19. These two students represented Virginia and placed second in this year's American Automobile Association (AAA) "National Auto Skills Contest." Jason and Gregory competed as a team from the C.S. Monroe Technical Center in Leesburg, Virginia, against 49 other teams across the nation and represented AAA Potomac.

The annual competition pits the best high school auto repair teams in the nation against each other. Nationwide, more than 5,000 students competed in the competition. Over \$8 million in scholarship money is awarded in the contest. The competition is based on written exams and a timed challenge for teams to find and fix bugs deliberated created in an automobile. Only the team from Oregon placed better than Virginia's team.

Mr. Speaker, today's automobiles have more computer processing power than the first Apollo spacecraft. According to AAA, a 1998 Ford automobile has about 84 percent its functions controlled by computers, compared with 14 percent for 1990 models. The skills needed to repair automobiles today are complex and highly technical. These students displayed amazing talent by placing second in the competition. As second place winners, they will be awarded scholarships worth thousands of dollars. The team's efforts have also earned their Leesburg school a Ford vehicle for use in the school's automotive training program.

Mr. Speaker, more students should be encouraged to learn computer and advanced technology skills because it is the way of the future. From automobiles to television sets to the Internet, students must learn these skills if our nation is to remain globally competitive. I commend Jason and Gregory on their hard work and achievement, encourage them to continue to build on this success, and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS S. CHAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and to honor the memory of the late Thomas S. Chan of Sacramento, CA. As Mr. Chan is memorialized today he will be remembered by his many friends and family members as an intelligent businessman and dedicated community leader.

Mr. Chan was a true Sacramentan. Born on July 17, 1919 he was raised in Sacramento and has always called Sacramento home. He graduated from Sacramento High School in 1937. In 1942, he met Mae Chuck and the two were wed in 1947.

Tom Chan devoted much of energy into helping his family's produce business flourish. Begun by his father, Mr. Chan assumed management of General Produce Co. during the 1950s. Yet the produce business was not the only field in which Tom Chan excelled. He went on to establish himself as one of Sacramento's most innovative retailers and custom home developers. He was also an immensely talented furniture craftsman as well as an avid sportsman. General Produce Co., South Land Park Terrace, and Riverside Estates will endure as Thomas Chan's lasting legacy in Sacramento.

But like his father, Tom also leaves behind a wonderful family, friends, and a community of people who are better for having known him.

The Chan family will always hold a special place in my memories. When my family and I returned to Sacramento after the incarceration of Japanese Americans, we had few possessions, little money, and no income. Moreover, because of the internment, there was a presumption of guilt and a suspicion of Americans of Japanese ancestry throughout California.

But amidst such indignities, there were families like the Chans who reached out to my family and others like us.

My father, who was forced to give up his own produce business when the internment order came, was hired by Tom's father to work at General Produce, where he worked with and for Tom Chan for more than 30 years.

There are scores of people and families who have been similarly influenced by Tom Chan and his family. It is they who will feel the great loss in our community and remember him as an admired leader.

Mr. Speaker, as Thomas S. Chan is laid to rest today in Sacramento, I respectfully ask all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating his dual legacies as a successful businessman and beloved family figure. Our thoughts are with Mae Chan, Tom's four children, and two grandchildren during their most difficult time.

HONORING BAISAKHI-1999

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BAISAKHI-1999, which is the Tercentenary Celebration of the birth of Khalsa.

BAISAKHI-1999 is where Indian-Americans, the government of Punjab, and the people of India will celebrate the rich Khalsa heritage of the last three hundred years. It will offer everyone an opportunity to reflect on Sikh values and traditions.

Punjab, India, is the land where the soul of Kabir found its resonance in the inspirational hymns of Guru Nanak, and the grandeur of Guru Gobind Singh's spirit inspired countless people. Punjab has always been known for the rich heritage of Sikh culture.

BAISAKHI-1999 represents the culmination of extensive planning, and has come about only through the remarkable efforts of devoted people whose commitment to the project should be commended. I would like to personally recognize the Chief Minister of Punjab Prakash Singh Badal and his council of ministers; members of the Legislative Assembly; Members of the Parliament; Serv Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala, Union Minister of India; Sukhbir Singh Badal; Jathedar Bhai Ranjit Singh; Jathedar Bhai Gurucharan Singh Tohra, M.P.; Bhajendra Singh Haumard, M.P.; Didar Singh Bhens; and the founder president of the Ambedkar International Mission U.S.A., Hardyal Singh.

To further mark this auspicious occasion, the Honorable Chief Minister of the State of Punjab, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, has proposed the development of Anandpar Sahib, a city in Punjab to reflect the rich heritage of Sikh culture. Included in the proposal is the Khalsa Heritage Memorial Complex, the Khalsa Memorial Academic Institute, a gallery of paintings, and a Sikh military museum among other things. Also planned is a Khalsa heritage memorial which will be three hundred feet high to mark this Tercentenary Celebration.

Once again, I would like to send my best wishes for this event, and my personal congratulations on this joyous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1998

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, on April 1 of this year, several of my colleagues and I introduced H.R. 3623, the "Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998," which 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.

At the time of introduction, I stated that we would modify the legislation if the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) determined upon reviewing the bill that there would be a revenue loss. Since then, I have learned from the JCT that this bill as originally introduced would lose revenue. With this concern in mind, I have decided to modify and reintroduce this capital gains legislation. The bill would now raise \$600 million over a ten-year period.

Based upon revenue considerations, we have modified the Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998 in several areas, none of which would affect the basic goal of substantially simplifying the taxation of capital