Pinks, Mrs. James L., aged 55, of 969 Park Avenue, New York City.

Schlater, Mrs. Charles W., aged 51 of Washington, D.C.

Seeley, Anna, aged 37, colored, of 35 Pierrepoint St., Broolyn.

Williams, Mrs. Alverta Rivers, aged 44 of Quogue.

QUOGUE

Fay, Thomas, Jr., aged 21 of Quogue.

Lucas, Charles, Jr., aged 20, of Quogue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 14, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 426 through 429. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on 426, 427, 428 and on 429.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 1998

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed several votes. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

''No'' on Rollcall No. 447, the Porter amendment to repeal the provisions that repealed Section 907.

''No'' on Rollcall No. 448, the Kennedy (MA) amendment to ban funding for the School of the Americas.

''Yea'' on Rollcall No. 449, Final passage of the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

TRIBUTE TO EVESHAM FIRE-RESCUE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 1898, a group of concerned citizens from Marlton came together to seek a way to better protect their homes and businesses from the ravages of fire. The Marlton Fire Company No. 1, now a part of Evesham Fire-Rescue, evolved from this gathering.

By the 1920's, the rolls showed over 25 members who responded to approximately 30 incidents a year. The firemen responded to calls not only in Marlton, but also in the surrounding areas. As time marched on and apparatus grew in size and the township in population, additions were built onto the station.

The historic station's final relocation was to the back of the current Evesham Fire-Rescue property. The exterior of the building has been refurbished to reflect its history. Personnel are currently raising funds and hope to begin work to convert the Historic Station into a museum.

The heart of Evesham Fire-Rescue is its people. One of the largest combined fire and EMS organizations in the area with 130 volunteer firefighters and EMTs and 18 career staff, the Department also has an Explorer Post for teenagers, a Division of Fire Prevention which provides educational programs to the public and an Auxiliary, which provides refreshments to emergency response personnel.

On September 26, 1998, Evesham Fire-Rescue will honor its heritage with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Marlton Fire Company No. 1.

On that date, Evesham Fire-Rescue will dedicate its new Marton Station, 105' Seagrave Tower Ladder Truck, and re-dedicate the Historic Fire Station and 1927 Hale Fire Engine.

I congratulate all Evesham Fire-Rescue personnel, past and present, and wish them another century of service to the community.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, along with many of my Democratic colleagues, today I am introducing a bill that contains many tax reduction provisions that have long been supported by many of the Democratic Members of this House. I am pleased that these provisions have been included in the tax legislation reported by the Committee on Ways and Means yesterday. The only difference between the bill that I am introducing today and the Committee bill is that my bill actually could become law. My legislation is consistent with the President's requirement that we save Social Security First, and therefore, unlike the Committee bill, it will not receive a certain Presidential veto.

I am introducing this bill to demonstrate that our vigilance in protecting Social Security is not just an excuse to oppose tax cuts. We Democrats do not oppose tax cuts. We support tax cuts. Virtually all of us voted for significant tax cuts last year. the 1997 bipartisan tax bill included nearly $300 billion in tax cuts over 10 years and the Democratic Members of this House supported a Democratic Substitute that would have provided even more tax relief for the middle class.

Many of the provisions in the Committee bill and in the bill I am introducing today originally were sponsored by Democrats. Marriage penalty relief, 100 percent deductibility for self-employed health insurance premiums and simplifying minimum tax rules to ensure that those promised the $500 per child credit enacted last year will receive it, were provisions offered in the Committee on Ways and Means last year by Democratic Members. Unfortunately, the Republicans voted them down last year.

We support fiscally responsible tax cuts, but unlike our Republican colleagues, we do not support using he Social Security surplus to pay for them. Therefore, any tax reductions that otherwise are not paid for will go into effect as soon as we have achieved the President's goal of saying Social Security First. The extension of expiring provisions and the phased-in increase in the Social Security earnings limit would become effective immediately, as under the Committee bill, since both bills pay for those provisions. Also, revenue-neutral and time-sensitive provisions such as the technical corrections and treatment of certain farm program payments would take effect immediately.

The Republicans have argued that the projected surpluses are sufficient to both cut taxes and preserve Social Security and that they are reserving 90 percent of the surpluses for Social Security. These assertions simply are not true.

The Republicans admit that 10 percent of the surplus is being diverted from Social Security under this bill. Moreover, there is nothing in the Republican proposal that actually reserves the other 90 percent for Social Security. In separate legislation, Republicans say they will ''protect'' Social Security. However, in that bill they merely require the Secretary of the Treasury to make several bookkeeping entries. They do not prevent the Congress from using the Social Security surplus for further tax cuts or further increases in spending. Under their plan, Congress could use the entire amount of the Social Security surplus next year for tax cuts or spending increases and there is nothing in the Republican proposal that would prevent it from doing so. With their bill they already have their noses in the Social Security tent. In this bill we propose to take the Social Security budget surplus truly off-budget so that it will not be spent until Social Security is solvent. This bill would take the entire amount of the Social Security surplus in each fiscal year and transfer it to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to be held in trust for Social Security.

When we talk about future budget surpluses, we should be clear that we are speaking about projections. Hopefully, the projections will be accurate, but there are many unforeseen events in our global economy. It would be foolhardy to assume that we can predict all of them. That is why no less an authority that Alan Greenspan has warned this Congress that we should not spend money we may not have.

Even if we assume the optimistic projections will come true, the so-called surplus over the next 5 years is not really a surplus. It is due to the contributions that American workers have invested in Social Security. It already has been committed to the Social Security trust fund. If we treated those contributions like all businesses treat their contributions to their employees' retirement plans, we would have a $137 billion deficit over the next 5 years and only a $31 billion surplus over the next 10 years, even if the optimistic assumptions prove to be correct.

Perhaps spending some of this money would not be so bad if it really was not needed to shore up Social Security. We all know the challenge that Social Security faces as the baby-boomers near retirement. The reality is that all of the money that Congress has committed to the Social Security program is needed, not only 90 percent of the surplus.

We are pleased that the Republicans have adopted many of our ideas for inclusion in their tax bill. Those ideas can be enacted this year if we commit to taking action to ensure the solvency of Social Security. Enacting tax cuts now without that condition would violate our commitment to the Social Security program.