

market meandered, as Presidents Bush and Clinton raised taxes and imposed regulations.

But a steadfast Alan Greenspan brought the inflation rate down to virtually zero today from roughly 5% at the beginning of the 1990s. Along with bringing down interest rates, this has sharply lowered the effective tax rate on capital gains (which reflect inflation as well as real growth in the value of assets) to about 30% from 80%, providing a tremendous boost for the high-risk technology investment that has become the engine of our new information economy. In effect, Mr. Greenspan's disinflationary tax cut neutralized the Bush-Clinton tax hikes.

The Republican Congress elected in 1994 put an end to the high-tax and reregulatory policies of Mr. Clinton's first two years. Mr. Clinton himself morphed into a middle-of-the-road president who signed a capital gains tax-rate cut, welfare reform, a balanced budget plan, the Mexican free-trade agreement and other trade-expanding measures. All these actions helped the stock market to soar

Meanwhile, information technology took off. The capital gains tax cut and low interest rates intensified Schumpeterian gales of creative destruction. Low interest rates create much more patient investment money. Low discount rates also lead to high price-earnings multiples, something the stock market understands even if its critics do not.

The 1980s witnessed a technology surge, based mainly on advanced computer chips, cellular telephones and personal computers. In the 1990s all this was improved, but the big push has come from innovative and user friendly software and Internet commerce. Though the government's reports of gross domestic product take little account of these developments, the stock market knows full well how important these technologies will be to future earnings, productivity, real wages, growth and wealth creation.

In fact, a significant gap has opened between the performance of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, comprised mainly of old-economy companies, and the new-economy Nasdaq. Since 1990 the Nasdaq has outperformed the Dow by 271 percentage points. Over the past year, the Nasdaq has increased 36%, while the Dow has gained only 16%.

Amidst all the bull-market prosperity, another starting development has occurred: the emergence of a new investor class. Numerous surveys report that roughly half of all Americans own at least \$5,000 worth of stocks, bonds and mutual funds. The investor class surely wishes to keep more of what it earns in order to bolster savings that can be invested in high-return stocks. This is why unlimited universal individual retirement accounts may be the sleeper tax issue of the next few years.

Roth IRAs—which currently invest after-tax deposits that will never be taxed again so long as the money is withdrawn at retirement—could be expanded to include redirected Social Security contributions and penalty-free withdrawals for health care insurance, education, home buying and employment emergencies.

This might be the single most popular tax reform among the shareholder class. By eliminating the double and triple taxation of saving and investment, this approach opens a back door to the flat tax, setting the stage for future tax cuts, individual ownership of Social Security contributions and other free-market policies.

OVERSIZED POWERS

What a difference a century makes. The 1890s saw a painful and costly depression that was principally caused by government policies such as high tariffs and an inelastic

currency. Politicians reacted by discrediting free-market economics; in its place, they moved toward a regime of oversized government powers and diminished personal liberty—a movement that was interrupted only briefly in the 1920s.

From Theodore Roosevelt's trustbusting to Wilson's tax hikes, Hoover's tariffs, FDR's early entitlement programs, all the way to LBJ's Great Society and Nixon's funding of it, economic freedom suffered and prosperity was sporadic. The century was filled with Keynesian nostrums that seldom delivered the goods.

The dominant event of the late 20th century is the bull-market prosperity of the 1980s and 1990s. This was caused largely by a shift back to free-market economics, a reduction in the role of the state and an expansion of personal liberty. At the turn of a new century, taking the right road will extend the long cycle of wealth creation and technological advance for decades to come. By 2020 the Dow index will reach 50000, and the 10000 benchmark will be reduced to a small blip on a large screen.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE CALLS FOR FOUR-YEAR HOUSE TERMS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on March 3, 1999, the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature passed Legislative Resolution No. 10. The resolution petitions Congress to amend the Constitution to increase the terms of members of the House of Representatives to four years.

This is a matter that merits serious debate and consideration. I call the text of the Resolution to the attention of my colleagues, as follows:

NEBRASKA UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE, NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, Lincoln, NE, March 4, 1999.

Hon. LEE TERRY, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TERRY: I have enclosed a copy of engrossed Legislative Resolution No. 10 adopted by the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature on the third day of March 1999. The members of the Legislature have directed me to request that the petition be entered into the Congressional Record.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding Legislative Resolution No. 10.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. O'DONNELL, Clerk of the Legislature.

Enclosure.

NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION, LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 10

Whereas, members of and candidates for the United States House of Representatives are elected every two years virtually requiring continual campaigning and fundraising; and

Whereas, the delegates to the 1788 Constitutional Convention discussed whether the term of office for a representative should be one year or three years and compromised on a two-year term; and

Whereas, communications systems and travel accommodations have improved over the last two hundred years which allows quicker and easier communication with constituents and more direct contact;

Whereas, the American people would be better served by having the members of the House of Representatives focus on issues and matters before the Congress rather than constantly running a campaign; and

Whereas, a biennial election of one-half of the members of the House of Representatives would still allow the American people to express their will every two years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of Nebraska, First Session:

1. That the Legislature hereby petitions the Congress of the United States to propose to the states an amendment to Article I, section 2, of the United States Constitution that would increase the length of the terms of office for members of the House of Representatives from two years to four years with one-half of the members' terms expiring every two years.

2. That official copies of this resolution be prepared and forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate of the Congress of the United States and to all members of the Nebraska delegation to the Congress of the United States, with the request that it be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

3. That a copy of the resolution be prepared and forwarded to President William J. Clinton.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FUTURE LEADERS OF COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participants of my first annual Young Adults Leadership Conference held in Weld County, Colorado. On February 27, 1999, 18 teenage students spent the afternoon participating in a political and networking seminar. Later that evening the students utilized what they had learned at the Weld County Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner.

I am honored to have met the following participants: Jeff Armour, Sara Asmus, Darren Call, Deanna Call, Donnell Call, Brady Duggan, Kevin P. Duggan, Casey Johnson, Darrick Johnson, Trent Leisy, Tia McDonald, Jenny Moore, Christopher S. Ong, Mary Beth Ong, Helena Pagano, Elizabeth Peetz, Timothy Romig, and Jeff Runyan.

I established the Leadership Conference to encourage political participation by the younger generation. At the conference, elected officials and community leaders led the students in discussing several different aspects of politics. Greeley Councilman Avery Amaya began the seminar with a discussion of local politics. Avery was followed by Bill Garcia, a political consultant, who spoke about political polls.

Lea Faulkner, a local media personality and former Greeley City Council member, conducted a hands-on learning experience about networking skills. The participants also had the opportunity to discuss issues with Colorado State Senator Dave Owen. Additionally, Anne Miller, Chairperson of the Colorado College Republicans invited the students to attend in the College Republican's next meeting.

I, too, had the honor of visiting with the students. We discussed the importance of good communication and how all effective organizations must communicate well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have met these young adults and am confident of their abilities to lead America in the future. This select group of young leaders has the integrity and values needed to ensure a virtuous Colorado and United States in the next century.

A VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN—
RAYMOND R. "ANDY" GUEST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues a recent editorial from The Winchester Star which so eloquently speaks about a true "citizen-legislator," Raymond R. "Andy" Guest of Front Royal, who has announced his retirement as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly, where he served for nearly three decades.

I am proud to call Andy Guest my constituent and friend, and am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him in public service to so many of the constituents we share from the Shenandoah Valley. On behalf of those people of the Valley, I wish Andy and His wife, Mary Scott, all the best wherever his path now as "citizen" leads.

[From The Winchester Star, March 2, 1999]
VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN—GUEST PERSONIFIED
LEGISLATIVE TRADITION

It comes as no small surprise that when the time came for Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. to announce his retirement from the General Assembly he was "overwhelmed" by "the history, the tradition" that surrounds anyone in Virginia's State Capitol. But then, Andy Guest is not "anyone"; 28 years a man of the House, he was emblematic of that tradition the Old Dominion so admires in her lawmakers, that of "citizen-legislator."

"To continue that tradition was a great honor." Mr. Guest said Sunday, roughly 24 hours after announcing his intention to leave the House, and the people, he served for nearly three decades.

However, the tradition to which he stood heir goes deeper than ties to Virginia. In a real sense, he was to the manner born; his father, Raymond Sr., also served in the General Assembly and was U.S. ambassador to Ireland. Thus, as his wife, Mary Scott, succinctly said. "He was born to be a public servant."

And, as a public servant, he will be dearly missed, by his peers no less than his constituents. Among the men and women with whom he engaged in the legislative hurly-burly he will be remembered as the gentleman he is.

"Sometimes we use the word . . . a little too freely," said House Speaker Thomas W. Moss, D-Norfolk, with whom Guest often tangled, "but I've never known him to be anything but a gentleman."

Likewise, said state Sen. H. Russell Potts Jr., R-Winchester: "We have lost a good man. His integrity and character exude the class that typifies a Virginia gentleman. He leaves a void that will never be replaced."

That "void" is considerable, in that Mr. Guest's voice was one of clear common sense and consistent conservatism, particularly of the fiscal variety. In his last session, he raised words of concern about the manner in which the state treats its surplus revenue (see editorial above). He is worried, as are we, that these dollars will be used to "grow

the government," rather than as a tool to fund needed capital expenditures.

Such a concern was true to form. As a minority member of the legislature for most all his 28 years in the House—he was minority leader for six of them—Mr. Guest often found himself "chipping away" at the system in hopes that it would run better. Frequently, this took the form of legislation that bore witness to the needs of his constituents in the northern Valley. He relished in his efforts to make the bureaucracy respond to these needs and to "see things get done."

To be sure, Mr. Guest also will be remembered for his courage in combating lymphatic cancer while maintaining a watchful eye on the General Assembly's proceedings from his Richmond hospital bed. Thankfully, he says his decision to leave the House is not health-related, but simply predicated by a desire to attend to family and business interests and to, as they say, "smell the roses" a bit, perhaps while dove hunting and fly fishing, two particular loves.

His wife, Mary Scott, says that having Andy at home on more or less a regular basis will translate into more opportunities to enjoy the company of friends, sans the demands that politics brings.

"I'll be able to say . . . 'Let's have dinner on Friday or Saturday night and we won't have to talk politics,'" Mrs. Guest said.

Without a doubt, she knows her man far better than we, but we suspect that politics will never stray too far from the mind of Andy Guest. Citizen-legislators may retire, but when "tradition" is born in the blood, the passion seldom expires. Nor does the legacy, which, in this case, is considerable.

THE D.C. EQUALITY BEGINS AT
HOME EFFORTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the local Equality Begins at Home events here in the District of Columbia that will take place during the week of March 21–27, 1999. I will be at the Bipartisan Congressional Retreat in Hershey, Pennsylvania on Sunday, March 21, when the District of Columbia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) residents kick off a week of lobbying and conscience raising at Freedom Plaza.

These events, with an emphasis on local needs, are taking place throughout the United States, but no jurisdiction has experienced more bigotry associated with sexual orientation than the nation's capital. This prejudice, I am happy to say, does not come from the people of the District of Columbia, or their locally elected representatives, who have enacted the most progressive and far-reaching protections in the country. Residents of every background in the District feel particular anger when, in violation of all of the principles of self-government, Congress injects itself to enact measures at odds with principles of equality and anti-discrimination that the residents of this city hold especially dear.

Each year, under congressional attack, I am forced to defend the District's domestic partnership law, a very modest provision designed to afford relatives or partners who live in the same household the opportunity to qualify for health benefits at no additional expense to the

District government. Last year, I spent ten hours on the House floor defending the District's appropriation from anti-democratic attachments, more of them seeking to impose sexual orientation discrimination than any other type of attachment that was proposed and passed. We must keep these and other anti-gay provisions off this year's appropriation. The right to adopt children or to qualify for health insurance has everything to do with kids in need of homes or residents in need of health care, and nothing to do with the sexual orientation of our residents. The bigoted mischief done by Congress to the District in the name of homophobia has known no bounds. The city is now in court seeking to overturn the congressional attachment that prevents the release of the November ballot results determining whether District residents who are ill can use medically prescribed marijuana for medicinal purposes. Another amendment brimming with discrimination last year all but destroyed the District's successful needle exchange program, leaving this vital, life-saving program to a totally private group with little funding.

I very much appreciate the efforts of our dedicated and energetic LGBT community to educate Members concerning the injury done to individuals and the insult to self-government rendered by congressional anti-gay attachments. With Equality Begins at Home rallied to fight back, we will yet make the Congress understand that it must back off—back off bigotry against District residents whose sexual orientation differs from the majority, and back off the annual assault on the legislative prerogatives of the City Council.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this bigotry is not limited to anti-democratic legislation aimed at the LGBT community of the District. In the past year, this nation has been outraged at the inexplicable cruelty of the murders of two gay men in Alabama and Wyoming. These hate-inspired murders underscore the need to pass the Hate-Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) immediately. Another session of Congress must not go by without addressing both the crimes and the employment discrimination that emanate from sexual orientation. No other response is acceptable.

COMMEMORATING TEJANO MUSIC:
19TH ANNUAL TEJANO MUSIC
AWARDS CELEBRATION

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today that will recognize one of the unique sounds sweeping across the Nation today—Tejano music. All across America the sounds of tejano have become the music of choice. From deep in the heart of south Texas to the Great Plains, from the east coast to the west coast, the pulsating rhythms of a loud drumbeat, a bajo-sexto guitar and an ubiquitous accordion are taking over the Nation to the beat of Tejano.

During the last several years Tejano artists have captured a large percentage of the Latin music market and continue to rise in popularity. From the legendary Selena to the incomparable Little Joe the sweet sounds of