EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SWAP FUND TRANSACTIONS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to eliminate a tax avoidance technique available only to the very wealthy. This technique involves the use of swap funds.

Like the legendary phoenix, a bird that lived for 500 years, burned itself to ashes on a pyre, and rose alive from the ashes to live again; this swap fund transaction has been closed down by Congress three times to date, only to see life again in the form of new and more exotic designs to get around whatever restrictions had been placed into law.

Legislation to shut down this particular practice was enacted in 1967, 1976, and again in 1997. In 1967, Congress enacted a law to prevent swap funds from being transacted in the form of a corporation, as was popular at the time. This led to the swap fund transaction being resurrected in the form of a partnership, which was closed down in 1976. Subsequently, the industry developed methods to get around both laws by manipulating the 80 percent test for investment companies. The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 closed these transactions down by broadening the definition of financial assets that are taken into account for purposes of the 80 percent test. Obviously, the point here is that three times Congress has acknowledged the tax avoidance potential of this transaction, and three times Congress has made a public policy decision to close this shelter down. And three times Congress has failed. We will not fail again.

Swap funds are designed to permit individuals with large blocks of appreciated stock to diversify their portfolio without recognizing gain and paying tax. In this transaction, a fund is established into which wealthy individuals with large blocks of undiversified stock transfer their stock. In exchange for the transferred stock, these individuals receive an equivalent interests in the fund's diversified portfolio. In effect, these individuals have now diversified their holdings by mixing their shares of stock with different shares of stock from other individuals, without having to sell that stock and pay tax on the gain like ordinary Americans.

The swap fund transaction is complicated, and is limited to individuals with large blocks of stock. For example, a recent offering was limited to subscriptions for $1 million, although the general partner retained the right to accept subscriptions of lesser amounts. This, however, does not mean an individual with only a million dollars in stock could invest in the swap fund. In order to avoid Securities and Exchange Commission registration requirements, these transactions are often limited to sophisticated investors who under SEC regulations, according to a 1998 prospectus, must have total investment holdings in excess of $5 million.

As outlined above, current law tries to stop swap funds involving a corporation or a partnership that is in investment company. An investment company is a corporation or partnership where the contribution of assets results in a diversification of the investor's portfolio, and more than 80 percent of the assets of which are defined by law as includable for purposes of this test.

In the most current form of the swap fund transaction, that limitation is avoided by holding at least 21 percent of assets in preferred and limited interests in limited partnerships holding real estate. In fact, the purpose of the fund is clearly identified by the prospectus, which states that "the value of the Private Investments will constitute at least 21% of the total value of the Fund's portfolio, so that the Fund will satisfy the applicable requirements of the Code and the Treasury Regulations governing the nonrecognition of gain for federal income tax purposes in connection with the contribution of appreciated property to a partnership." As in past years, the bill I am introducing addresses the specific transaction being used; that is, the bill would eliminate the latest avoidance technique by providing that such investments would be treated as financial assets for purposes of the 80 percent test.

The second part of this bill at long last recognizes the inadequacy of the above approach, given its 32 year record of failure. This section states that any transfer of marketable stock or securities to any entity would be a taxable event, if that entity is required to be registered as an investment company under the securities laws, or would be required to register but for the fact that interests in the entity are only offered to sophisticated investors, or if that entity is formed or availed of for purposes of allowing investors to engage in tax-free exchanges of stock for diversified portfolios.

The effective date of this legislation is for transfers after date of Committee action, with an exception for binding contracts signed prior to date of introduction. While it is clear that the Committee will decide on the appropriate effective date, I do not believe it would be fair to apply this legislation to contracts signed prior to the date that taxpayers were first on notice of a potential change in the law. This effective date is, by the way, similar to the effective date the Committee chose for the 1997 change.

For those taxpayers who react by rushing their deals, they should be on notice that I intend to attach this legislation to the first tax bill that emerges from the Committee on Ways and Means after September 1, 1999. For those who have technical suggestions to make to the legislation, it would behoove them for the same reason to analyze this bill carefully and make whatever technical suggestions they have as soon as they practically can.

Mr. Speaker, the life and death of this transaction is not simply another instance of American ingenuity and creativity which we can all admire. It is, in reality, a practical example of the need to seriously consider what generic powers should be granted to the Department of the Treasury to close down certain tax shelters without waiting for Congress, which inevitably can only attempt to keep up with the most obvious techniques being utilized to minimize tax payments.

One of the great dangers I see on the horizon, Mr. Speaker, is that the proliferation of tax shelters will eventually lead to a severe backlash by Congress that may not be as well crafted as many, including myself, would like.

OFFICERS STEVE REEVES AND STEPHEN GILLNER

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, those cynics who say America has no real heroes anymore have never heard the names Steve Reeves and Stephen Gillner.

Both men filled one of the most dangerous roles in the Cobb County Police Department by serving on its SWAT team. Late last month, both men gave their lives in a heroic effort to save an elderly woman.

Officers Gillner and Reeves were both devoted husbands and fathers. They were both active in their communities. Both had a record of putting their own lives at risk to help others.

Officer Gillner received an Officer of the Year nomination for pulling a man from a burning van. Reeves received awards for saving a family from a burning home and rescuing an officer from an armed suspect.

Every day, we are disappointed to see the sports figures and celebrities many look up to, letting us down. Officers Gillner and Reeves did not let us down. They lived their lives as quiet heroes; protecting lives, loving their families, and making it possible for the rest of us to enjoy the safety we all too often take for granted.

In life and death, these two brave officers taught all of us what it really means to be a hero. While nothing can erase their loss, we can take comfort in knowing they gave their lives doing a job they loved, and doing it well.

WORKFORCE SKILLS SHORTAGES

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee, Representative LAMAR SMITH, for recognizing the important role technology companies play in our nation's economy, and holding a hearing on Thursday to investigate the workforce shortage affecting America's high-tech industries. The high-tech explosion experienced in the U.S. has created over 1

million jobs since 1993 and produced an industry unemployment rate of 1.4 percent. In California alone, this technology explosion has made the Golden State number one in high-tech employment by creating 784,151 jobs and making up 61 percent of California's exports. As a result, our nation's economy has surged and the American people are enjoying the highest standard of living in history.

While our economy is strong, we must recognize that if cutting edge technology companies do not have access to growing numbers of highly skilled personnel, it will threaten our nation's ability to maintain robust economic growth and expanding opportunities. For the second year in a row, robust growth in technology in technology industries have placed significant strains on the H–1B visa program. Last year, these visas were increased to ensure that the scarcity of skilled workers not undermine the ability of the economy to grow. Unfortunately, the Immigration and Naturalization Service reached the visa cap in June leaving 42,000 visas outstanding. Additionally, there are currently over 340,000 unfilled positions in the high-tech industry, and the Department of Labor projects that this deficit will increase by 1 million workers in the next decade.

I believe that highly-skilled, temporary foreign workers are critical to filling a limited number of positions for which no qualified Americans are available. That is why I introduced the New Workers for Economic Growth Act of 1999 as the House companion for S. 1440 introduced by Senator PHIL GRAMM. This legislation increases the level of H–1B visas available for highly-skilled scientists and engineers to 200,000 for the years 2000–2002.

It is clear that education reform and worker training are essential to ensure that American citizens are able to take advantage of these positions. The fact is, half of the student graduating from American universities with doctorates in science, math and computer programming are foreign-born students. The lack of investment in educating Americans in these subject areas is a serious long-term problem that must be addressed. In the short-term, however, I believe a temporary increase in H1B admissions is warranted. I commend Chairman SMITH for exploring the current situation so that a workforce shortage does not threaten our vibrant economy.

WORKPLACE PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 987) to require the Secretary of Labor to wait for completion of a National Academy of Sciences study before promulgating a study or guideline on ergonomics:

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Workplace Preservation Act and in support of American small business. All we're asking is for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to delay implementation of a new workplace ergonomics rule until the National Academy of Science finishes a study of the effects of workplace ergonomics.

The rule that OSHA wants to implement is conservatively estimated to cost Americans $3.5 billion a year. As a small business owner, I am very concerned about how federal regulations affect people and their jobs. Too often the people who suffer are not only the small business owners, but also their employees. And the regulation being discussed by OSHA is indeed large. It could have harmful effects on the economies of the small towns that dot my district where there are not many choices of where to work. Often in Central, Southern, and Eastern Oregon, if you lose your job at the local tire store or construction company, there are no other employment choices.

The federal government has already played a role in driving the unemployment rate in Grant County to almost 17% in April of this year by halting access to the federal lands that dominate the landscape of Oregon. Now it wants to micro-manage small business? I believe that before the federal government implements a drastic increase in its interference in America's small businesses, it needs all the information it can get on ergonomics. It is not too much to ask OSHA to wait to implement its rule until we have a chance to examine the ergonomics study being performed by NAS at the request of Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I join the small business owners of America in thanking my friend from Missouri, Mr. Blunt, for his leadership on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to support this reasonable and pro small-business bill.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ROSLYN MCGRUDER CLARK

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Roslyn McGruder Clark, a native of Miami who passed away Saturday of a brain aneurysm at the age of 48.

Roslyn Clark was a precious asset to our community. Her enthusiasm for her work, her compassion for other people, and her dedication to public service speak to the very best tradition of police service.

Roslyn was simply an outstanding law enforcement officer. She worked hard, and she worked smart. Education was extremely important to her. She was a graduate of Miami's Jackson Senior High School. She held a Master of Science degree from Biscayne College, and had completed graduate course work at Florida Atlantic University and at the University of Miami.

Roslyn Clark's tremendous abilities were recognized by her superiors. She attained the rank of major and was the highest-ranked African-American female police officer in the Miami-Dade Police Department. Her task was to head the Northside Police Station in the Liberty City area of Miami, considered by many to be the most violent area in Dade County.

Roslyn Clark did not shrink from this challenge; she welcomed it. For she had grown up in this area. She knew the people, and she knew the problems. Even more important, she was a talented leader who knew how to make the police force work for the community. She used every tool available to her—personnel, training, community groups, educators. She forged relationships with residents and young people. Because of her work and under her direction, the neighborhood began to improve. This is an important part of her legacy.

Major Roslyn McGruder Clark is survived by her husband, Edgar Clark, her son Keenan, her stepson Edgar Clark, Jr., and by her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Helen Ward. I extend to them, on behalf of our entire community, my heartfelt sympathy at their loss, which is our loss.

From this day forward, whenever men and women of determination and good will talk about those in our community who made a positive contribution, whey will remember Roslyn Clark.

TWENTY-FIRST AMENDMENT ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2031) to provide for injunctive relief in Federal district court to enforce State laws relating to the interstate transportation of intoxicating liquor:

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concerns about the impact of H.R. 2031 on small family-owned vintners and wine producers in my district.

This issue before us is much more complex than it seems on the surface. Of course, teens should not be able to order a case of beer from their home computers. Nor should they be able to mail order shipments of alcohol to their front door. Because of this, I will support this bill.

But we are voting on much more than this.

This bill basically states that federal courts might get involved when an adult visits a small family owned winery in person and purchases wine for their own consumption, then has that wine shipped home.

I see no reason why this transaction—which could still be prosecuted in a state court if it violated a state law—should be pushed into the federal courts.

We do not have the resources to use the federal courts to chase such violations of state law.

I hope to introduce stand alone legislation that would address my concerns and I ask my colleagues for their support.

Such an effort would be pro-small business, pro-tourism, and pro-family farmer.

JUDITH TAYLOR

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the outstanding work of Judith Taylor.

Judith Taylor teaches mathematics at Inez Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in my district. Recently, she received the National Science Foundation 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award honors 208 teachers from around the country whose work makes them role models for other educators to emulate.

Ms. Taylor's unique philosophy and creative approach to teaching math has touched the lives of many students and impressed the judges of the contest. She believes most students' fears about math manifest themselves early because students are uncomfortable with common teaching methods. Rather than forcing her students to memorize rules, Taylor teaches them to look for patterns in mathematics.

I am certain most adults can remember a teacher from their school days who was a positive influence not only in their school work, but also in their lives. I thank her for being a positive influence to the students in the first district.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we recognize and thank Judith Taylor for her hard work and dedication in teaching mathematics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, in the evening of Thursday, July 29, 1999, and the morning of Friday, July 30, 1999, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and therefore missed rollcall vote No. 355 (Motion to Instruct Conferees on S. 900), rollcall vote No. 354 (Motion to instruct Conferees on H.R. 1501), rollcall vote No. 353 (the Pitts amendment to H.R. 2606), rollcall vote No. 352 (the Moakley amendment to H.R. 2606) and rollcall No. 351 (the Campbell amendment to H.R. 2606).

I want the RECORD to show that if I had been able to be present in this chamber when these votes were cast, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 355, rollcall vote 354, and rollcall vote 352. I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall vote 353 and rollcall vote 351.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PAYMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Construction Contractors Payment Protection Act of 1999, H.R. 1219. This legislation has been carefully crafted to balance the rights and interests of the parties on projects covered by the Miller Act. The Miller Act requires a performance bond to protect the government for completion of the project and payment bonds to protect certain persons providing labor and materials since these persons are not afforded the protection of mechanics liens on federal projects. Legislation previously proposed did not adequately balance these considerations. I am pleased that twenty-three construction industry groups including the Associated General Contractors of America, the Surety Association of America, American Insurance Association and National Association of Surety Bond Producers were able to agree upon provisions enhancing the current Miller Act.

Bonding is a very important benchmark in the construction industry. This bill preserves that benchmark. Bond capacity represents a company's financial and capacity to complete a project. Bonded contractors expose their companies to rigorous financial and operational evaluation and their officers often pledge corporate and personal financial assets as collateral to the bond.

The Miller Act was designed to protect subcontractors and the government to ensure the timely completion of a construction project. Government contractors have proven to be very reliable. Hundreds of thousands of contracts are entered into annually. The government purchases billions of dollars of construction services.

I commend the gentleman from Virginia, Representative DAVIS and the gentlelady from New York, Representative MALONEY, and the Chairman of the subcommittee, Representative HORN for their extraordinary efforts to reach a consensus agreement by so many in the construction industry.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH REGARD TO SHUTTLE MISSION STS–93, COMMANDED BY COLONEL EILEEN COLLINS, FIRST FEMALE SPACE SHUTTLE COMMANDER

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Air Force Colonel Eileen Marie Collins as the first female space shuttle commander. Col. Collins represents the best in America's space program and I congratulate her and the crew for the successful deployment of the Chandra X-Ray Observatory during the STS–93 Mission aboard the Shuttle *Columbia.* With three missions under her belt, Col. Collins has certainly become one of our most experienced astronauts.

I look forward to seeing the results of the time and resources invested in making the Chandra X-Ray Observatory a reality. The telescope will give scientists an important tool to study phenomena like exploding stars, quasars and black holes.

Chandra and other major projects like Hubble and Landsat are the results of a team effort of NASA scientists, engineers, contractors, educational institutions and the highly trained astronauts who place these satellites and observatories into orbit. While we commend the efforts of this mission and NASA's many previous accomplishments, I am deeply concerned by the $1 billion cut in NASA's overall budget of $13.6 billion and the impact this will have on future programs like Hubble's successor, the Next Generation Space Telescope.

Goddard Space Flight Center is one of NASA's premier research and program management facilities and the facility that will be most impacted by the cuts. The $1 billion dollar cut would adversely impact NASA's Space and Earth Science Programs based at Goddard. These are serious cuts and I am deeply concerned with the impact this will have on the almost 12,000 employees that work either directly as employees or indirectly as contractors.

So as we recognize the success of STS–93 and Col. Collins' tremendous achievement, let us also keep in mind that future programs like Discovery and the Next Generation Space Telescope—programs that will utilize the shuttle program—face an uncertain and unnecessary fate, as a result of these cuts.

JAMAICA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable island nation which will be celebrating its 37th year of Independence on Friday, August 6, 1999. This is the island nation of Jamaica. But although independent Jamaica will be celebrating its 37th birthday this Friday, the nation of Jamaica is much older than its 37 years. In fact, this nation was born in 1655, 344 years ago, when the former African slaves established free Maroon settlements after the Spanish colonial power had departed the island. It came to adolescence on August 1, 1834, when slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire. Independence is the culmination of a long period of gestation, growth, and maturity in the life of this nation.

Jamaica has bequeathed a glorious legacy of resistance to human oppression. The Maroon rebellion, led by its freedom fighters, inflicted heavy losses on the British and forced them to recognize the autonomy of the Maroon communities. Among its pantheon of freedom fighters are Cudjoe, Nanny, Johnny, and Accompong.

Jamaica provided leadership during the labor disturbances of 1938, when harsh social conditions forced the working class to take serious industrial action. Among the leaders of the labor revolt were Allen George Coombs, the old Garveyite warrior St. William Grant, and the incomparable William Alexander Bustamante.

Jamaican contribution has not been confined to the island of Jamaica. Jamaicans have contributed to the struggle for human rights in the U.S.A. Among the outstanding Jamaicans who have contributed to our history are John Brown Russwurm, the author of the first black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, Robert Brown Elliot, who served in this Congress from the great State of South Carolina, during the Reconstruction period, Claude McKay, one of the outstanding authors during the Harlem Renaissance, and Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the prophet of Pan African nationalism.

Jamaica has produced more musical genres than any country in the world, except the U.S. Its traditional African rhythms as reflected in

the Kumina, Myal and Pocomania cults led to the development of the worksongs, then to the Mento, then the Ska, the Rock Steady and finally the internationally acclaimed Reggae music.

Each of these musical genres has produced its pantheon of superstars. The worksongs produced the acclaimed lyricist, Harry Belafonte, the Mento produced the legendary Lord Flea and Lord Fly, the Ska produced the Skatalites, Rock Steady produced artistes such as Hopeton Lewis and Delroy Wilson, and Reggae produced Jimmy Cliff, Peter Josh, Dennis Brown, and the incomparable Robert Nesta Marley.

This nation has produced more sports heroes than any other nation, with the exception of the U.S. It has produced superstars in the fields of cricket, soccer, netball, hockey, boxing, and athletics. It has created history in such nontraditional sports as bobsled, chess, and baseball. It has contributed to the American past time by producing such superstars as Patrick Ewing of the Knicks, Devon White formerly of the Blue Jays, and Chili Davis of the Yankees.

Mr. Speaker, never in the long history of human achievement has a nation of such modest size, population, and resources produced so many talented individuals in virtually every field of human endeavor—in the struggle against oppression, in the struggle for social justice, in the task of creating an Afrocentric identity, and in the fields of music, drama, and sports.

I wish to conclude by paraphrasing a tribute, which William Shakespeare once paid to another island nation:

This royal throne of Kings, this scepter'd isle,
This Earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise.
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in a silver sea,
This blessed plot, this Earth, this realm,
This Jamaica.

JANICE USSERY

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the outstanding work of Janice Ussery. She was recently recognized for her community service to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Janice Ussery volunteers with the Meals on Wheels Association in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which is in the First Congressional District of New Mexico. Recently, the Meals on Wheels Association of America named her their Volunteer of the Year. Janice started volunteering with Meals on Wheels in 1981 as a driver delivering hot meals to clients.

Her campaign for providing quality meals played a major part in the Albuquerque Meals on Wheels obtaining a kitchen of their own. Through her involvement the quality of home cooked meals delivered to the needy improved. The improvements came, not only from the product, but through creating a friendly working environment for staff and volunteers.

Janice Ussery not only brings meals to the needy, she also brings pride to our community. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Ussery for her hard work and dedication and ask that we recognize her.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WALTER J. CUNNINGHAM OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Col. Walter J. Cunningham of Huntsville, Alabama, on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Col. Cunningham has dedicated thirty years of outstanding service to the U.S. Army and this Nation. In his thirty year career, he has held every position available to an engineer office, excelling at each assignment. The numerous awards, distinctions and decorations he has garnered mark his career as among the finest of our Nation's leaders and patriots.

Among his impressive range of accomplishments are the positions of platoon leader in Alaska, project engineer for construction of Ramon Air Base in Israel and Battalion Operations Officer in Louisiana. Recognition by the U.S. House of Representatives is a fitting tribute to one who has provided so much time, so much labor and so much strong leadership towards the defense of our nation.

Col. Cunningham is praised by his colleagues for his innovative and effective management saving taxpayers tens of millions of dollars in military construction projects with the Department of Defense.

I congratulate Col. Cunningham and his wife Phyllis on his richly deserved retirement and I wish him the best in his future years.

As an army veteran, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize his tremendous service and accomplishments as well as thank him for his extraordinary contributions to Alabama and the defense of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD M. WOLIN, M.D.

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Edward M. Wolin, recipient of the Ahavas Chesed Award, which recognizes individuals for their compassion and dedication to humanity. Dr. Wolin is a clinical oncologist, who has dedicated numerous years toward the prevention and treatment of cancer.

President Kennedy once said. ''for those to whom much is given, much is required.'' Dr. Wolin has been blessed with a brilliant mind and a caring heart, and he has used these assets toward improving the quality of life for so many, not just nationally, but globally.

The prevention and treatment of cancer is one of the most prominent and necessary fields of modern medicine. This year, over 1,400,000 United States citizens are expected to be diagnosed with cancer to curing the most common and lethal cancers, working diligently to curb their degenerative effects.

Dr. Wolin's wonderful practices began after attending Yale University School of Medicine. He subsequently taught on the Washington University School of Medicine staff, and became the Chief of Clinical Oncology Teaching and Research at the Jewish Hospital of St. Louis. In 1981, Dr. Wolin began practicing in southern California, and he later became the associate medical director at the Cedars-Sinai Comprehensive Cancer in Los Angeles, where he is currently engineering innovative efforts toward developing new methods in the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Dr. Edward M. Wolin. Helping to cure the world of cancer is an honorable deed that merits the utmost respect, for his selfless work is paving the way for a better tomorrow. Dr. Wolin's commitment sets an example for us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for rollcall vote 364. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

LOSING THE BATTLE FOR PEACE IN KOSOVO

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, when the House of Representatives considered legislation to approve the use of American forces as part of the NATO coalition against Yugoslavia, many Members of Congress, including myself, cautioned that military strikes would do little to end this centuries-old conflict, and instead might only aggravate tensions.

Mr. Speaker, it has been several weeks since Slobodan Milosevic agreed to withdraw his forces from Kosovo and daily NATO bombings of Yugoslavia ceased. While some were quick to proclaim victory and openly declare that this President's ''legacy'' had finally been secured, it is now becoming plainly apparent that the bloodshed never really ended.

Milosevic's Serbian forces committed reprehensible human acts not seen in Europe since Hitler's Germany. Actively working to thwart his maniacal and murderous scheme was a noble defense of all humanity. I am proud of our men and women in uniform who acted with courage and patriotism while serving the interests of peace in trying to stop the rapes, killings and ethnic cleansing. Peacekeeping should be an ''ethnically blind'' operation.

Despite the best of intentions, the cycle of violence in this region of the world continues. Kosovo is still a warzone, and the prospect for peace is no better today than it was when NATO airstrikes began. I remain convinced that this Administration's policies have failed

all the people of this region. I firmly believe that more attentive and more skillful diplomacy months and years earlier may have prevented this entire war.

Mr. Speaker, the world needs strong American leadership abroad, and Congress should not hesitate to demand a more coherent strategy from this President to ensure a lasting peace in this war-torn region. Stopping one campaign of hatred and violence only to permit others to kill and maim is hardly a legacy to be proud of.

JOHN RICHMOND, GASTON DEVIGNE AND KATYA HAFICH

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the outstanding work of John Richmond, Gaston DeVigne and Katya Hafich. They are students at Albuquerque Academy, a middle and high school in the First Congressional District of New Mexico.

Recently, these three students won the Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association Explora Vision Awards. Toshiba and the NSTA give the award to students who compete in teams of three to predict how a form of technology will develop in the future and how it will look in 20 years.

Together, these students produced a video predicting the progress of defibrillator technology. They believe the defibrillators of tomorrow, which are used to help stop heart attacks, will be lightweight and portable, and they will have voice command capability.

John, Gaston and Katya displayed the ambition, knowledge and vision to lead America into the 21st Century. These traits helped them to attain success now and will continue to do so throughout their lives. I am honored to be able to congratulate them.

Mr. Speaker please join me in congratulating John Richmond, Gaston DeVigne and Katya Hafich for their achievement.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF JUDGE PHILIP E. LAGANA

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite our colleagues to join me in honoring Judge Philip E. Lagana, a great American, and fellow New Yorker, who spent his life serving the public and our country. Through countless hours of hard work and dedication, Judge Lagana upheld the values and principles of our country's Constitution by fairly, firmly, and compassionately serving as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court. The following tribute delivered at his funeral service by Joseph Crea, Professor Emeritus at Brooklyn Law School, beautifully captures this man's invaluable contributions to his community.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF JUDGE PHILIP E. LAGANA

For me, at this time, it is a privilege and a sadness to speak about a friend, neighbor and associate in the legal profession. I first met Judge Philip E. Lagana more than fifty years ago at the Brooklyn Law School, where I served as Law Librarian and he was a student in his final year. Since 1948 when he graduated law school, our paths were never far apart. I remained in the academic area of the law. Judge Lagana went out into the public area to practice his profession as a lawyer. He began his private practice in the field of Criminal Law. After a short stint of practice, he then diverted his attention to public service, a career which he served until his retirement. Judge Lagana began his public service in the Kings County District Attorney's Office. Where he was appointed an Assistant District Attorney. In that office he initially served as trial attorney and was rapidly promoted to the position of Deputy Chief of the Supreme Court Trial Assistants. He was then charged with setting up a major offenses bureau at the District Attorney's office. Upon completion of this task, Judge Lagana was appointed chief of the bureau. In 1974, Judge Lagana was made President of the New York City Tax Commission by then Mayor Abe Beame, a position he occupied until his election to the Supreme Court of the State of New York in 1975. This was the culmination of years of public service, which the public recognized in electing him to that high office. There was also recognition at his first induction by the presence of many friends, neighbors, relatives and members of public. It was a joyous event. I had the privilege to speak at this his first induction to the judiciary. There was no sadness in the many congratulatory remarks on that occasion.

As a Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge Lagana acted with firmness, but with fairness and compassion. He was not afraid to make difficult decisions, explore new concepts, or develop new theories. Recognition of these actions and qualities found support from the appellate bench which reviewed them. After serving with distinction, Judge Lagana won the support of the public, the lawyers who practiced before him and his associates. This guaranteed him reelection for an additional 14 year term. At age 70, when he was required to step down under the then age law, Judge Lagana was certified to continue on the first of the three 2 year extensions. In 1992, he decided to retire, left the bench and took with him the accolades, the honors and the esteem of many friends, associates and organizations, among which where the Catholic Lawyers Guild; the Columbian Lawyers Association; the Kings County Criminal Bar Association; the Brooklyn Bar Association; the New York State Real Estate Board; the United Jewish Appeal; the Marlboro Memorial Post No. 1437, American Legion and its Women's Club; and the 46 A.D. Democratic Club.

The legacy one leaves is not only embodied in his career as a public servant, it has an individual persona. Judge Lagana was born and spent his lifetime in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Sts Simon and Jude grade school. Upon graduation he was selected for St. Michael's High School (now Xaverian). His performance at St. Michael's gained him entry and a place at Georgetown University. From there it was then Brooklyn Law School and the start of a professional career already documented.

During World War II, Judge Lagana served in the Signal Corps in the China theatre. Following military service, he joined the Marlboro Memorial Post # 1437 and served in many executive positions during his lifetime membership, the last giving many years as Judge Advocate. His commitment on behalf of the veteran is well known. He never lost touch with the veterans's problems and needs.

When called upon, Judge Lagana never refused to serve in a social service or political setting. He loved politics and its many challenges and served his party well. As compassionate as he was as a judge, this quality extended to charitable endeavors as well.

To Josephine, to Francis, to family members, to his neighbors, to his friends and associates, to the public he served, Judge Lagana's passing leaves behind a sadness and a legacy. A legacy of memories—of a public servant, who in his offices acted with dedication; of a decent unpretentious person, who never lost touch with the people and his family circle. He also leaves us the memories of the esteem in which he was held; of the honors bestowed upon him; of service to the community; and loving commitment and dedication to family.

A legacy for a lifetime.

THE FOURTH OF JULY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to tell my colleagues about the wonderful Fourth of July celebration that was held in the town of Fieldon. This year marked the 45th anniversary of the Independence Day celebration. On Independence Day the town of 350 is a perfect picture of small town America, with the Stars and Stripes flying from white front porches.

''We invite the public to join us in Fieldon for the Fourth of July Celebration,'' Mayor Betty Duggan said. ''There will be games, bingo, good country cooking and fireworks.'' Fieldon has a rich and patriotic history dating back to before the civil war. When long time resident Hazel Dunham was asked about the event she said, ''Fieldon is a patriotic town of people who love the flag of their country.'' I am extremely proud to represent the people of Fieldon, Illinois, people who possess the pioneering spirit of hard work, moral values, and patriotism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted ''aye'' on rollcall No. 365, disapproving the extension of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam. I ask that the RECORD reflect a ''nay'' vote on rollcall No. 365.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KARBIN FAMILY

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to honor two of my neighbors and constituents on a very happy and joyous occasion.

On February 21st, my friends Carolyn and Martin Karbin welcomed to the world a beautiful baby girl. Laura Marie Karbin was born at 8:37 a.m., she was 21.5 inches long and weighed eight pounds, three ounces.

I want to share my good wishes and warmest congratulations with the Karbin family. I know that Laura will receive the best of guidance, support and love from her parents and I wish her a life filled with peace, happiness and good health.

SCHOTT GLASS TECHNOLOGIES ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 30th anniversary of one of America's leading technological enterprises: Schott Glass Technologies of Duryea, Pennsylvania. Schott Glass Technologies will mark its anniversary with a dinner on August 12. I am honored and proud to have been asked to attend and participate in this event.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Schott Corporation of Yonkers, New York, Schott Glass Technologies now employs 450 people in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The company is a vital component of national efforts to advance America's technological excellence and local efforts to spark the economic revitalization of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Schott Glass Technologies is currently engaged in a project that will have important local and national repercussions. Schott is creating in Duryea the most advanced production center in North America for high-technology flat panel glass that is used in various electronic devices, from laptop computers to military aircraft. This vitally-important technology is important for our national security and is expected to create up to 100 new jobs in Duryea, many of which will be the high-skilled, high-wage jobs that are essential to boosting our area's economy.

The flat panel display industry is expected to double within six years to nearly $24 billion, but most of this glass is currently produced in Japan or other Asian countries. Schott Glass Technologies has joined forces with Candescent Technologies Corporation to develop an innovative flat panel display technology that is higher-quality and less expensive than the technology currently in use. Schott plans to build a processing plant in Duryea that will produce super-thin glass using ''down draw'' technology, which allows for thinner glass to be created that requires less polishing. This facility will be the first of its kind in the United States. The super-thin glass will be used in displays for hand-held electronics for the United States Department of Defense ground forces and in avionics displays for military jets. Other uses include displays for laptop computers, work stations, and commercial jet avionics.

By contributing to the economy of Northeastern Pennsylvania and advancing our nation's store of technology, Schott Glass Technologies continues to provide an example of the conscientious entrepreneurship that will support our nation compete in the global economy of the 21st Century. Under the leadership of President Bruce Jennings, Schott Glass Technologies can be expected to continue to grow and develop to meet the challenges of constant technological innovation.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have had this opportunity to share with my colleagues the accomplishments of Schott Glass Technologies. I salute the men and women of Schott Glass Technologies for their hard work and devotion.

THE INTERFAITH CONFERENCE OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF BUILDING UNITY AND CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the twenty years of work of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.

Founded in the fall of 1978, the Interfaith Conference has been recognized as ''the flagship of interreligious organizations.'' One of the most remarkable aspects of the Interfaith Conference is the diversity of its members—Islamic, Hindu, Jewish, Latter-day Saints, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Sikh faith communities. They have come together and achieved great success, especially in dialogue and in joint work on critical issues of social justice.

There is a natural harmony among the faiths and the Interfaith Conference has found it in their work in this city and in this region. The Conference has found a way to act on faith in a spirit that does no violation to faith. The Washington Interfaith Conference has chosen to influence public life, consistent with faith, yet mindful of its purposes and limits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in celebrating. The Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington and thanking its members, individually and collectively, for reminding us of enduring values—such as unfailing help to the needy—and for reinforcing enduring morals, civility in language, and in treatment of others.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, August 5, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 6

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings on the employment and unemployment situation for July.

Room to be announced

SEPTEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 1052, to implement further the Act (Public Law 94–241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America.

SD–366

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building