

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE: MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight what is arguably the most unfair provision in the U.S. Tax Code: the marriage tax penalty. I want to thank you for your long term interest in bringing parity to the tax burden imposed on working married couples compared to a couple living together outside of marriage.

I want to thank both of you and Chairman ARCHER for the pledge to bring H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, to the floor for consideration before Valentine's Day. This is truly one of the best Valentine's Day presents we can give to America's working couples. As you know, H.R. 6, as considered by the Ways and Means Committee, will provide \$182 billion in marriage penalty relief over 10 years. This is a significant increase over the \$45 billion proposal offered by President Clinton just before this year's State of the Union Address. Ultimately, as a result of H.R. 6, 28 million working couples will receive up to \$1,400 in marriage tax penalty relief.

This month President Clinton gave his State of the Union Address outlining many of the things he will spend the budget surplus on. House Republicans want to preserve 100% of the Social Security surplus for Social Security and Medicare and use the non-Social Security surplus for paying down the debt and to bring fairness to the Tax Code.

A surplus provided by the bipartisan budget agreement which:

- cut waste,
- put America's fiscal house in order, and
- held Washington's feet to the fire to balance the budget.

While President Clinton parades a long list of new spending totaling \$72 billion in new programs—we believe that a top priority after saving Social Security and paying down the national debt should be returning the budget surplus to America's families as additional middle-class tax relief.

This Congress has given more tax relief to the middle class and working poor than any Congress of the last half century.

I think the issue of the marriage penalty can best be framed by asking these questions: Do Americans feel its fair that our Tax Code imposes a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do Americans feel its fair that the average married working couple pays almost \$1,400 more in taxes than a couple with almost identical in-

come living together outside of marriage? Is it right that our tax code provides an incentive to get divorced?

In fact, today the only form one can file to avoid the marriage tax penalty is paperwork for divorce. And that is just wrong!

Since 1969, our tax laws have punished married couples when both spouses work. For no other reason than the decision to be joined in holy matrimony, more than 21 million couples a year are penalized. They pay more in taxes than they would if they were single. Not only is the marriage penalty unfair, it's wrong that our Tax Code punishes society's most basic institution. The marriage tax penalty exacts a disproportionate toll on working women and lower income couples with children. In many cases it is a working women's issue.

Let me give you an example of how the marriage tax penalty unfairly affects middle class married working couples. For example, a machinist, at a Caterpillar manufacturing plant in my home district of Joliet, makes \$30,500 a year in salary. His wife is a tenured elementary school teacher, also bringing home \$30,500 a year in salary. If they would both file their taxes as singles, as individuals, they would pay 15%.

### MARRIAGE PENALTY EXAMPLE

	Machinist	School teacher	Couple	H.R. 6
Adjusted Gross Income .....	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$63,000	\$63,000
Less Personal Exemption and Standard Deduction .....	6,950	6,950	12,500	13,900 (singles x 2)
Taxable Income .....	24,550	24,550	50,500	49,100
	(x .15)	(x .15)	(Partial x .28)	(x .15)
Tax Liability .....	3682.5	3682.5	8635	7,365
Marriage Penalty .....			1270	
Relief .....				1,270

But if they chose to live their lives in holy matrimony, and now file jointly, their combined income of \$61,000 pushes them into a higher tax bracket of 28 percent, producing a tax penalty of \$1,400 in higher taxes.

On average, America's married working couples pay up to \$1,400 more a year in taxes than individuals with the same incomes. That's serious money. Millions of married couples are still stinging from April 15th's tax bite and more married couples are realizing that they are suffering the marriage tax penalty.

Particularly if you think of it in terms of:

- a down payment on a house or a car,
- one years tuition at a local community college, or
- several months worth of quality child care at a local day care center.

To that end, U.S. Representative DAVID MCINTOSH (R-IN) and U.S. Representative PAT DANNER (D-MO) and I have authored H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act.

H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, as considered by the House Ways and Means Committee, will increase the 15% tax bracket (currently at 15% for the first \$26,250 for singles, whereas married couples filing jointly pay 15% on the first \$43,850 of their taxable income) to twice that enjoyed by singles; H.R. 6 would extend a married couple's 15% tax

bracket to \$52,500. Thus, married couples would enjoy an additional \$8,650 in taxable income subject to the low 15% tax rate as opposed to the current 28% tax rate and would result in up to \$1,200 in tax relief.

Additionally the bill will increase the standard deduction for married couples (currently \$7,350) to twice that of single (currently at \$4,400). Under H.R. 6 the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly would be increased to \$8,800.

H.R. 6 enjoys the bipartisan support of 233 cosponsors along with family groups, including: American Association of Christian Schools, American Family Association, Christian Coalition, Concerned Women for American, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Family Research Council, Home School Legal Defense Association, the National Association of Evangelicals and the Traditional Values Coalition.

It isn't enough for President Clinton to suggest tax breaks for child care. The President's child care proposal would help a working couple afford, on average, three weeks of day care. Elimination of the marriage tax penalty would give the same couple the choice of paying for three months of child care—or addressing other family priorities. After all, parents

know better than Washington what their family needs.

We fondly remember the 1996 State of the Union Address when the President declared emphatically that, quote "the era of big government is over."

We must stick to our guns, and stay the course.

There never was an American appetite for big government.

But there certainly is for reforming the existing way government does business.

And what better way to show the American people that our Government will continue along the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are running a \$3 trillion surplus. It's basic math. It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect of it.

What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty—a bipartisan priority. During the State of the Union Address this year, that he signaled his willingness to work to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. We must send him

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

a bill to eliminate the marriage penalty suffered by 28 million American working couples.

The proposal offered by the President to reduce the marriage tax penalty is a good start, but it is not enough. By doubling the standard deduction, only couples who do not itemize their income taxes receive the benefits of tax relief. In order to provide relief to couples who itemize, mainly homeowners, we must address the difference in the income tax brackets. If we follow only the President's plan, the result will be a marriage tax penalty against couples who are homeowners and couples who contribute to charities. This is not right and it is not fair.

Speaker HASTERT and House Republicans have made eliminating the marriage tax penalty a top priority. In fact, we plan to move legislation out of the House before Valentine's Day.

Last year, President Clinton and Vice-President GORE vetoed our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty for almost 28 million married working people. The Republican effort would have provided about \$120 billion in marriage tax relief. Unfortunately, President Clinton and Vice-President GORE said they would rather spend the money on new government programs than eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

This year we ask President Clinton and Vice-President GORE to join with us and sign into law a stand alone bill to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and hearth to America's children, the U.S. Tax Code should not be one of them. The greatest accomplishments of the Republican Congress this past year was our success in protecting the Social Security trust fund and adopting a balanced budget that did not spend one dime on Social Security—the first balanced budget in over 30 years that did not raid Social Security.

Let's eliminate the Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

#### MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF

• 236 Bipartisan Cosponsors of H.R. 6, 28 Democrats, 22 Members of the Ways and Means Committee

• The proposal being offered today will offer:

- \$182 billion in tax relief over 10 years
- This is \$60 billion more than the proposal vetoed by President Clinton and Al Gore
- This is \$137 billion more than the President proposed last week
- The President's proposal would provide \$45 billion in relief over 10 years
- Basically, doubles the standard deduction
  - Could create a homeowner penalty
  - Provide up to \$210 in relief
  - H.R. 6 will now provide up to \$1,400 in tax relief for 25 million American working couples—an average of about \$800 per couple
    - double the standard deduction
    - widen the 15% bracket to twice that of singles
  - Increase EIC threshold for married couples by \$2,000

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 8, Tuesday, February 8, 2000, I was absent

due to my husband's illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### TRIBUTE TO PETER H. MACLEARIE

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to mark the passing of Mr. Peter H. Maclearie of Spring Lake Heights, NJ, who died on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, at the age of 68.

Mr. Maclearie was an outstanding leader in the Jersey Shore community, contributing his talents and energies in both the public and private sectors. He served as the Mayor of Spring Lake Heights for two terms, from 1970 to 1976, having previously been a Borough Councilman from 1963 to 1970. Mr. Maclearie also served as an incorporator and member of the Board of Directors of Allaire Community Bank in Wall, NJ. He was responsible for obtaining federal grants for the development of the Spring Lake Community Center. Among his other contributions to the betterment of our community, Mr. Maclearie was a founding member and past chairman of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority. He served on various committees of the New Jersey League of Municipalities and was a member of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors and an honorary member of the Municipal Clerks Association.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it seems as though politics and community service must be in the Maclearie blood. Mr. Maclearie's father was the Mayor of Belmar, NJ, for 36 years, including a period of time when father and son were mayor simultaneously in adjoining boroughs. His sons, Peter and Paul, are currently municipal councilmen in Tinton Falls, NJ, and Spring Lake Heights, respectively.

Mr. Maclearie was also the president of Coded Systems Corp., which he founded in 1971. His firm specialized in codifying municipal ordinances throughout New Jersey and many other states. He also was the founder and president of Maclearie Printing of Wall, NJ.

A communicant of St. Catharine's Roman Catholic Church in Spring Lake, NJ, Mr. Maclearie also was a member of the church's Finance Committee. He was a member of the Wall Rotary Club, the Belmar Fishing Club, the Spring Lake Golf Club, the Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club, and the 200 Club of Monmouth County. He was a charter member of the Manasquan Elks Lodge and the Spring Lake Area Chapter of Deborah Heart and Lung Center.

Born in Asbury Park, NJ, Mr. Maclearie lived in Belmar before moving to Spring Lake Heights 42 years ago. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War, serving as a combat photographer. He was a member of the Spring Lake Post of the American Legion, a life member of the Asbury Park Post Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Richard Skoluda Chapter of Disabled American Veterans, Spring Lake Heights.

Despite his numerous commitments, Mr. Maclearie found time to enjoy life with his family, to dote on his grandchildren, to pursue such hobbies as fishing, boating, camping,

practical jokes—and, of course, politics. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Florence Yesville Maclearie; three sons and daughters-in-law, Peter and Ann of Tinton Falls, Paul and Eileen of Spring Lake Heights, and James and Nancye of Toms River, NJ; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Michelle and Christopher Wood of Spring Lake Heights, Nancy and Matt Hayduk, also of Spring Lake Heights, Cathleen of San Francisco, California, and Mary Beth and Drew Smith of Phoenix, Arizona; a brother, Timothy of Ocean Grove, NJ; two sisters, Jean Boda of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, and Judy Gray of Maine; and 10 grandchildren.

In keeping with Mr. Maclearie's dedication to the cause of helping others, his family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Deborah Heart and Lung Center or the Peter H. Maclearie Scholarship Fund in Spring Lake Heights.

Mr. Speaker, the Maclearie family is obviously devastated by his loss, as are his many, many friends. I hope that they will find comfort in the many good wishes from people all over, and from the knowledge that Mr. Maclearie did all that he could to make his community a better place.

#### NONPOINT POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Coastal Community Conservation Act and the importance of protecting America's water ways.

Our children's future matters to all of us, and we have a responsibility to leave to them the same beautiful and viable environment that we enjoy today. The Coastal Community Conservation Act is a step in the right direction.

The Conservation Act requires states with approved coastal zone management programs, such as New York, to develop a coastal pollution control program to manage nonpoint sources which affect water quality.

A major feature of a coastal nonpoint control program is that it unites the water quality management expertise of the state water quality agencies with the land use management expertise of the coastal management agency. In order to preserve America's heritage, this unity of water and land conservationist must happen.

The most promising approach is to incorporate pollution reduction and management into the conduct of activities rather than establish separate programs. To do this the following guidelines must be followed: build on existing programs; incorporate state and local government input; and plain common sense.

It is vital that in our zeal to find solutions to our pollution problems that we remember the importance of coordination between the states and the federal government. We all have the same goal: protecting our natural resources. We have some of the most beautiful coastlines and natural resources in the world. The time is now to solve them. And our children and grandchildren will thank us.

HONORING REVEREND DEVIN MILLER, RECIPIENT OF THE 1999 FBI DIRECTOR'S COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of the Reverend Devin Miller. Mr. Miller was recognized as the recipient of the 1999 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award. Since 1990, the FBI has publicly recognized the achievements of individuals and organizations within the area of drug education and prevention by presenting them with the Director's Community Leadership Award. Included in this group of eligible recipients are those individuals or organizations who are actively involved in gang, crime, and violence prevention/education.

This award was presented in recognition of Reverend Miller's work to promote non-violence in Saint Paul. Among his initiatives is the creation of the Black Teens for Advancement youth program, which stresses academics, self-esteem and a nonviolent lifestyle. He recently expanded this program with "Becoming Everything You Set Out to Be," a similar initiative for junior high students.

I commend Reverend Miller for his work with the youth of Saint Paul. His efforts benefit not only the young people with whom he works directly, but also our community as a whole. There is a lot of talk about the growing incidences of violence among teens, what the causes are and how to prevent problems in the future. Reverend Miller has shown through his work, that the best thing we can do is to act, to mentor, and most of all to care about our young people. I applaud his efforts to implement programs that address the concerns and needs of our youth, and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS AND ITS LONGEST TENURED EMPLOYEES, LEE P. WEBBER, PEPITO C. LADERA AND MAGGIE N. CASTRO

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as we all know from direct experience, our relationship, as elected public officials, with the news media is a necessary but not always comfortable one. We are quick to turn to the news to find out what's going on, but we dread facing the cameras and microphones when we ourselves get swept up in newsworthy circumstances. Some of us try to avoid media attention. Some of us bravely face it head on. Some of us are more media savvy than others. Most of us learn from our mistakes. Of course, when we have what we think is good news—something that places us in a good light—we often find ourselves banging on the media's doors for attention.

The news media, the "Fourth Estate," regards itself as the guardian and champion of our First Amendment rights. While the great

debate rages about responsibility, accountability, fairness and where the line lies between the public's right to know and the public's right to privacy, I daresay we all still believe, as Thomas Jefferson held, that democracy cannot flourish without a free press.

With this as my preface, I wish to congratulate Guam's Pacific Daily News on its 30th anniversary. Known affectionately, and sometimes disdainfully, simply as the "PDN," this Gannett-owned newspaper is Guam's only general circulation morning daily, publishing seven days a week. In my district, which is a small island with a small population, where elected officials, media personalities and news reporters are not distanced and insulated from the public at large, the PDN has worked valiantly to report the news as fairly, as accurately, as fully, and as objectively as possible, despite the inescapable network of familial and personal relationships that bind us all together as a small island community.

Mr. Speaker, as a young teacher over twenty years ago, I organized and led a public protest demonstration against the PDN over its English-only publication policy. After several exchanges in the days following, some which were rather heated, we arrived at a compromise: the Daily News would accept non-English advertisement if accomplish by an English translation. In the years since then, the PDN has made commendable efforts to truly reflect the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural island community which it serves. It has recruited reporters locally and supported their continued education and training in journalism. It has a long-established summer intern program and promoted reporting and writing among high school students by devoting an entire section, called "Vibe," for the news and entertainment interests of young people. Now, English translations of foreign language ads are optional. And finally, the PDN routinely fills management positions from within.

Thus, I again congratulate retired editor Joe Murphy, whose "Pipe Dreams" column entertained, antagonized, and inspired many over the years; Managing Editor Rindraty Celes Limtiaco, whose career I been privileged to watch develop; the section editors and reporters who have had to ask me tough questions, have often put me on the spot, and have generally treated me fairly. Lastly, I send special congratulations to the three PDN employees, who, like the newspaper itself, are celebrating 30 years on the job. To Publisher and President Lee P. Webber, who started out as PDN's Circulation Manager; to Comptroller Pepito C. Ladera, who has kept the paper's books and ledgers; and to Senior Account Executive Maggie N. Castro, who could probably run the entire operation singlehandedly, I send my best wishes. Yanggin mauleg che'cho'-ta, mauleg i ma sanggan-ta. When our work is good, good is said of us. Biba, PDN!

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 103RD ARMORED DIVISION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, the community spirit and dedication of National Guard units

are a key to communities throughout the United States, and I want to recognize an especially strong community effort by the 103rd Armored Division based in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

In particular, their support of Red Cross efforts with the Keystone 500 race and blood drives has been recognized by the Chairman of the local Red Cross Board as extremely significant and in the highest tradition of public service.

The Guard Unit has also helped with the Cambria County Air Show, the Kosovo Relief Project, the Penn Woods Council of the Boy Scouts, the United Way Summer Youth Employment Program, and school efforts on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Along with training for their military readiness and providing vital back-up to active duty forces, this kind of community support is in the highest tradition of the Armed Services and of our Nation.

In particular, I want to recognize Major Preston Scott Stape, the Administrative Officer, and the particularly strong work of SFC Donald F. Scholly, SFC Donald F. Williams, SSG James P. Livella, SSG Ronald L. McKelvey, and Mr. David J. Lavigne.

It's this type of service to family, Nation, and community that is such a great part of our Nation's history and continuing strength, and I commend these individuals for their efforts and dedication.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 10, Tuesday, February 8, 2000, I was absent due to my husband's illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO JERRY W. WEST, SR.

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to mark the passing of Mr. Jerry W. West, Sr., of Neptune, NJ, who died on Saturday, December 4, 1999, at the age of 73.

Jerry West was an outstanding leader in our community, dedicated to the effort to improve the quality of life for the residents of the Jersey Shore area. He was also a good friend whose support and advice I have always valued. Jerry also worked closely my predecessor, a great Member of this House, the late Representative James J. Howard of New Jersey.

Born in Asbury Park, NJ, Jerry West lived in the Shore area for most of life. He served his country in the Navy during World War II. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ. He went on to earn his doctorate from Temple University, Philadelphia. He was an adjunct professor at his alma mater, Monmouth University. For 20 years, Jerry served as a contract

specialist for the U.S. Army's Fort Monmouth in Eatontown, NJ, retiring in 1997.

Jerry West made great contributions to the building and maintaining of a prosperous and healthy community along the Jersey Shore. He was a member of the Neptune Township Board of Adjustment and the Environmental Commission. He also served on the Fletcher Lake Committee, contributing his efforts to the restoration of this beautiful lake located between the Ocean Grove section of Neptune and Bradley Beach. In fact, in recognition of Jerry's devotion to the cause of protecting our environmental resources, the West family is asking that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to the Fletcher Lake Committee.

As dedicated as he was to serving our community, Jerry was most devoted to his family. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Edna Brand West, his son, Jerry West, Jr., his daughter, Linda W. Maxwell, his brother, John West, his sister, Ann Connelly, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Jerry West is a terrible loss for his family, his many friends and all those in our community who have benefited from his good work. It is, nevertheless, an honor for me to pay tribute to him in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate African-American History Month. The contributions of African-Americans to America are too numerous and wide-sweeping to mention in a minute, so I decided to tell you about my district's Citizen of the Month, a shining example of a strong, determined, beautiful African-American woman.

Hempstead Town Board Member Dorothy L. Goosby is an amazing person, embodying what it means to be well-rounded person, a community activist, a citizen legislator and a trail-blazer.

Dorothy is a woman whose life reflects many "firsts." On November 2, 1999, she was elected to the Town of Hempstead Town Board as only one of three Democrats to serve on the board since 1905. A major achievement topped by the fact she is the first African American woman elected to the board. To her political experience, Dorothy brings her careers as a dietician, chemistry teacher and nursing home administrator.

Long been a community activist in Nassau County and the Town of Hempstead, Dorothy challenged the very town on whose board she now sits. In 1988, Dorothy and others filed a class action suit against the Town of Hempstead charging voters' bias. In 1997, a federal judge agreed and ruled that the town's voting methods was not representative of all its residents.

Twelve long, hard years later, Dorothy's class action suit came to a positive close recently when, on January 24, 2000, the New York State Supreme Court ruled that the Town of Hempstead did in fact discriminate against

African-Americans and that board members must be elected from council districts rather than in town-wide voting.

A long-time advocate and supporter of children and youth programs, Dorothy is an adult member of the Girl Scouts, and has served on the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of Nassau County. She is the former Vice President of Hempstead School Board; former President of Hempstead's United Parents Association and retired President of Marshall School's Parents Teachers Association.

Dorothy's success and sheer determination to do the right thing is an inspiration to everyone. I hold up my friend, Dorothy Goosby, as a shining example in this bright month of African-American History Month.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO SIMI VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Simi Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team, which will represent Ventura County in the Academic Decathlon California state finals on March 16–19.

The Simi Valley team's win this past weekend was impressive, setting a new county record of points scored. And, in winning the county competition against 15 other schools, they also beat last year's National Champions—Moorpark High School, Simi Valley's neighbor to the west. Moorpark placed second in this year's county competition. The two have been trading the county title for the past eight years.

This time, the accolades belong to Simi Valley High School. The nine-student team is representative of the best and brightest our county has to offer. They have been accepted to such universities as Harvard and Stanford. Seniors David Bartlett, Steve Mihalovitz, Cary Opal, Jeff Robertson, Jennifer Tran, Michael Truex, Justin Underhill, Randy Xu and junior Kevin White ended the competition with a slew of medals and trophies.

Now these bright young leaders are readying themselves to take on the top teams in the state. They will probably face Moorpark High School again, as Moorpark is expected to compete as one of the state's wild card teams. Simi Valley High School is confident, but not taking Moorpark for granted.

It promises to be an exciting contest—the Super Bowl of intellectual competition.

"We're cooler than the athletes now," Jennifer Tran told a local reporter after this weekend's contest. And just as tough.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Simi Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team for its impressive win this week, and in wishing the team great success in the state championships.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROTECTING THE PRESI- DENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE FIRST LADY

### HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of introducing legislation to assist law enforcement agencies that are facing additional costs due to the new residency of the President and the First Lady in Chappaqua, NY.

It is fortunate that my new constituents will now have the benefit of the services of some of the finest local law enforcement agencies in the nation. My intention in introducing this legislation today is simply to ensure that the local taxpayers are not overburdened with the additional costs which are normally associated with providing the necessary protective services for the Nation's First Family. Though their presence in our community at this point has been limited and sporadic, some local police departments have already incurred costs in the tens of thousands of dollars. While it is difficult to forecast, these local agencies project that the costs will increase dramatically in the coming months.

Similar legislation was introduced and acted upon in 1989 when Representative Brennan, whose district included Kennebunkport, ME, proposed legislation to provide funding to local police departments in order to limit the costs incurred by the frequent visits of President Bush. It is my hope that the Federal Government will again take action to prevent a local community from being overburdened by these additional costs, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

#### CODIFYING THE CLEAN WATER ACT

### HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will codify the 27-year statutory interpretation of the Clean Water Act that has consistently classified forestry activities as a nonpoint source for potential water impairment and specifically exempted forestry activities from permitting requirements. Quite simply, this legislation will preserve the current system whereby our waters are kept clean through cooperative efforts between State and local governments and private landowners.

The 1987 Clean Water Act Amendments enacted section 319 to specifically address nonpoint source runoff, including silviculture, through State Best Management Practice [BMP] programs. Under section 319, any regulatory program to control nonpoint source pollution is at the State level and not at the Federal level. Congress determined that it is the State's responsibility to develop nonpoint source controls and determine if there is a need for regulatory programs. Additionally, it is the State's responsibility to have the legal

means in place to enforce a landowner's compliance.

With this congressional intent in mind, Texas has developed a highly successful, voluntary approach to nonpoint source pollution control and a "bad actor" law to enforce the provisions where necessary. Since 1991, the Texas Forest Service, in cooperation with EPA, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, forest industry, Texas Logging Council, and forest landowner associations, has conducted extensive training of foresters, loggers, and landowners to understand silvicultural Best Management Practices and how to implement them. To date, over 850 loggers and foresters have been trained on BMPs. In 10 years since forestry BMPs were developed in Texas, 87 percent of all logging sites across twelve million acres are in compliance with recommended BMPs.

The States have done a good job of working with the private landowners to clean up our streams and lakes. Opening up the process to unnecessary and burdensome Federal regulations would only have a negative impact on the States' ability to improve land use decisions. My legislation will allow the current, voluntary, nonpoint source program to continue building on its successes by ensuring that States can continue to treat forestry activities as nonpoint sources for potential water impairment. This bill keeps in tact the congressional intent of the Clean Water Act that identifies most water pollution from silvicultural activities as nonpoint in nature, thus exempting private landowners from Federal permitting requirements.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 9, Tuesday, February 8, 2000, I was absent due to my husband's illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF MR. GUILLERMO DESCALZI FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN JOURNALISM AND FOR BEING HONORED BY THE COLEGIO DE PERIODISTAS DE CUBA

##### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Guillermo Descalzi for his vast achievements in journalism and to congratulate him on being honored by the Colegio de Periodistas de Cuba.

Born in Lima, Peru, Mr. Descalzi came to the United States at the age of nineteen to attend Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. Mr. Descalzi received his Bachelors of Science degree from Canisius College in 1968 and went on to earn a Masters in Arts from the State University of New York at Buffalo. After completing his education, Mr. Descalzi returned to his native Peru to teach at the University of San Marcos.

Mr. Descalzi's impressive career in television journalism began when he returned to the United States and joined the Spanish International Network (SIN), now known as Univision. Knowing the growing demand for news and programming from within the Hispanic community, Mr. Descalzi spearheaded the network's first-ever national newscast in Spanish to be televised in the United States. Because of his vision and commitment to address the needs and concerns of Hispanics, Mr. Descalzi soon became one of Univision's national correspondents.

Continuing his goal of providing news coverage to the often marginalized Hispanic community, Mr. Descalzi was the first continental correspondent to link the Americas via the television airwaves. By airing footage and covering stories affecting Latin America, Mr. Descalzi's efforts provided a connection for Hispanic Americans to their heritage and culture.

Currently, Mr. Descalzi is the host of the award-winning investigative newsmagazine, "Ocurrio Asi." Featuring a broad range of topics, "Ocurrio Asi" goes behind the scenes and the headlines to tell the untold story and extract the truth. Mr. Descalzi's unyielding efforts have helped the show win more than 40 Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television, Arts, and Sciences, attracting presidents, celebrities, sports heroes, and activists to appear on this show.

For his unmatched journalistic achievements and integrity, and his work on behalf of the Latino community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Descalzi. His dedication and hard work have truly earned him this recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE HOMESTEAD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAM

##### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Homestead Senior High School academic team. This distinguished group of students participated in the 20th Congressional District "We the People" championship, held on December 9, in Miami, Florida. It is a pleasure for me to honor this team for winning this important competition.

Since the program's creation in 1987, "We the People" has encouraged students to participate as active citizens, acknowledging the responsibility each one has in our democracy's present and future. The program's curriculum is designed to complement the classroom experience, enabling elementary and secondary students to acquire additional knowledge and understanding of the Bill of Rights. Students are then given the opportunity to apply their knowledge of the Constitution to various activities, such as critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and mock congressional hearings. These hands-on activities allow the students to demonstrate their knowledge of historical and current events, defending their opinion on these issues relative to constitutional principles that they have studied.

The Homestead Senior High School academic team is well known for its past suc-

cesses in the "We the People" competition. Not to be outdone by previous groups that have participated in the event, this year's championship team includes 19 students: Humberto Abeja, Diana Amador, Bobbi Andersan, Michael Bundy, Gloria Camacho, Monique Delatorres, Jason Gracia, Brandace Hopper, Elizabeth Martinez, Brandon Mike, Carlita Peralta, Janet Prevey, Rafael Quinquilla, Henry Rogers, Rocio Sanchez, Natalie Sawyer, Willie Smith, Chevonda Walker, and Symone Williams. I would also like to recognize the hard work and dedication of Mr. David Marshall, the teacher who was instrumental in preparing these students for this prestigious competition.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Homestead Senior High School academic team for their extraordinary effort and success in winning the "We the People" championship. This is truly an accomplishment that Homestead Senior High School can be proud of.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL REFLEX SYMPATHETIC DYSTROPHY (RSD) MONTH

##### HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of and support for people like Betsy Herman who suffer from an excruciatingly painful disease called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD). RSD is a post-traumatic condition triggered by an injury, surgery, or infection. In simple terms, it is a malfunction of the nervous system in the body's attempt to heal. It may strike at any time, resulting in intense inflammation, swelling, stiffness and/or discoloration of the nerves, muscles, bones, skin and circulatory system.

Because RSD is a complex and little-known disease, Betsy, like scores of RSD sufferers, went for years without being diagnosed with this debilitating disorder. Instead of receiving prompt treatment for RSD after a sprained ankle and pulled muscle when she was 12 (which could have led to full recovery), Betsy was accused of faking and exaggerating her condition and was sent for psychological counseling.

Unfortunately, five years and six surgeries later, Betsy now walks with the help of an implanted device and must drive over 100 miles once a week for treatment. While other teenagers play sports and attend proms, Betsy must wait until classes are in session until she walks the halls of her high school to assure that she isn't bumped, since even the slightest touch can sometimes cause severe pain.

Despite the tremendous physical agony and emotional pain Betsy has suffered at the hands of RSD, she has worked diligently to educate the public about the condition. She recognizes that public education will help lead to correct diagnoses and increased investments in research and treatment for RSD. She also created an on-line support group for teens with RSD, providing a crucial lifeline to other young people afflicted with this incurable disease. In recognition of her efforts, the RSD Hope Group presented Betsy with their Humanitarian of the Year Award last fall.

It is for Betsy Herman and other RSD sufferers that I introduce this Resolution today expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that October should be named "National Reflexive Dystrophy Awareness Month." I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort to increase awareness, augment funding, and better diagnose and treat this horrible disease.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ST.  
LOUIS RAMS

**HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the 2000 Super Bowl Champions, the St. Louis Rams, and their remarkable season.

The St. Louis Rams display of heart, courage, and determination made Super Bowl XXXIV a timeless memory for millions of Americans.

Five seasons ago, the Rams organization brought football back to the people of St. Louis, who in turn have proven themselves to be faithful and high-spirited fans. In that time, the Rams have become an integral part of our community, our neighborhoods, and our schools by giving their time to various charities, public events, and most importantly, the people of St. Louis. They have brought enthusiasm and dedication to St. Louis, and they have done it with class and dignity.

Kurt Warner is this year's Super Bowl MVP and a St. Louis Rams quarterback hero. He epitomizes what is good about athletes and serves as an excellent role model for people of all ages. Kurt's commitment to his family, his faith, and his team should serve as a lesson to us all.

I would also like to congratulate Georgia Frontiere, owner of the St. Louis Rams, and John Shaw, President of the St. Louis Rams. Their devotion to the team and their love of St. Louis was crucial to our Super Bowl victory. Their love of the Rams is only paralleled by their love of St. Louis, as demonstrated by their efforts through the Rams Foundation. They have made hundreds of donations to schools and charitable organizations throughout the St. Louis area. Under their leadership, the Rams will continue to be a winning team for many seasons to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say I am from St. Louis, and I am just as proud to say I am a Rams fan. Thank you and congratulations to the St. Louis Rams.

RECIPIENTS OF THE FRANKLIN A.  
POLK PUBLIC SERVICE MERIT  
AWARD

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend your attention to a wonderful honor. The Cuyahoga County Bar Foundation and Cuyahoga County Bar Association recognizes very prominent public servants. Each public servant receives the distinguished

Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Award. The honorees are as follows:

IRENE BOHUSLAWSKY—PARMA MUNICIPAL  
COURT

Nominated by the Presiding/Administrative Parma Municipal Court Judge Kenneth Spanagel, Irene Bohuslawsky has, since 1974, been employed in the Law Department of the City of Parma, where she currently is the Administrative Assistant in the Prosecutor's Office. A graduate of Lourdes Academy, Irene attended classes at Cuyahoga Community College. Irene began her service with Parma as a part-time legal secretary one month after the birth of her fourth son. She spent time with both the Prosecutor's Office and the Law Department prior to being named to her present position in 1995. In this position she is the office's "traffic cop," insuring that communication flows among the prosecutors, defense lawyers, any defendants without counsel, citizens, victims, complainants, the Court's judges and magistrate. Irene says that raising her four sons is her outstanding accomplishment, and, in her spare time, she enjoys her own garden and those of her children. She also spends time sewing, embroidering, designing floral arrangements and refinishing old furniture. She is noted for her patience, courtesy and ability to deal with the public, and she handles all these varied duties with a smile and with a disposition that, in Judge Spanagel's words, "anyone would be hard-pressed to maintain." That must be true, since, in her years of service, she has encountered such varied responses as the surprise of the man who had crashed his car into his former girlfriend's front steps and who was arrested after the police found his front license plate, to the loving couple whose marriage ceremony before one of the judges was followed, almost immediately, by the bride's filing a charge of domestic violence against her new groom.

JOSEPH BOOKER—CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF  
COMMON PLEAS

As Chief Jury Bailiff for the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, Joseph Booker, nominated by Presiding/Administrative Judge Richard J. McMonagle, supervises the Jury Room and insures that prospective jury panels are prepared for their service in criminal and civil trials. After employment in the private sector in marketing positions, Mr. Booker became a court employee in 1975. Married to Carolyn since 1961 and the father of three, Joseph, an Alabama native, raised in Youngstown, credits his father, a steelworker and minister, and his mother, a homemaker, with instilling in him and his brothers strong spiritual values, which he tries to impart to others. An army veteran, Mr. Booker enjoys photography, woodworking, travel and golf and has been active in church activities, including serving as a Boy Scout troop master. Mr. Booker has heard every reason, and then some, advanced by citizens trying to avoid serving as jurors. His most vivid recollection, though, is the call he received on a Friday from a wife whose husband was on a jury which had been sequestered. The wife was calling to find out how her husband was doing during the sequestration. There was one problem: the jury had been discharged the prior Tuesday. Joseph regrets, perhaps only slightly, that he did not find out how the couple resolved the problem.

JUDY COURTEMANCHE—EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT  
OF APPEALS

Judy A. Courtemanche, Judicial Secretary at the Ohio Court of Appeals, Eighth Appellate District, has been nominated by her boss, Administrative Judge James Porter, in recognition of her combined 21 years' service

at the Court of Appeals and the office of the Cuyahoga County Clerk of Court. Particularly, her service in circulating and releasing the Judge's opinions, keeping his docket, and working with him in all court-related matters. A resident of the Cleveland area since her birth, Ms. Courtemanche has been married for 15 years to her husband, Bob. She views her marriage to Bob as her biggest accomplishment and also values her close relationship with her sister and her three brothers. Judy has been honored by the Plain Dealer as an outstanding former carrier and also has served in the old Cleveland Municipal Stadium, Jacobs' Field and the new Cleveland Browns Stadium as a ticket taker and usher. An avid reader and gardener, Judy also enjoys activities designed to maintain her fitness. She camps regularly, including trips to Canada and seven states in the last two years alone. The child of a mother and father who were both long-time governmental employees, Judy still finds her work interesting and challenging, and she says, second only to saying "I do", entering public service was the best decision she ever made. In her "dream job" at the Court of Appeals, Judy values her co-workers as a close and supportive second family.

DANIEL DADICH—CUYAHOGA COUNTY DOMESTIC  
RELATIONS COURT

Since October 1978, Dan Dadich, Administrative Judge Timothy M. Flanagan's nominee, has been employed at the Domestic Relations Court. Now, the Director of Enforcement Services, Dan is regarded as being the person to see to get a clear and quick response to questions about child and spousal support and health insurance for children. Mr. Dadich notes that the ever-changing legislation in this area has made it an awesome challenge to help parties and counsel understand the complexities of this particular portion of the trauma of divorce. Dan has presented support issues at continuing legal education courses offered by the Cuyahoga County Bar Association and others. Dan has lived in the Cleveland area his entire life and attended Kent State University. Dan is married to Gail, who received this same award in 1995. This doubly-honored couple are the parents of three sons, Devon, Daniel and Derek. Dan has been active as a coach and officer in the North Royalton Soccer Club. Despite the stress of dealing with court personnel, parents and counsel, Dan still maintains an even and reasoned perspective and a keen sense of humor.

RAYMOND DENNARD—CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL  
COURT

Raymond Dennard has been an employee of the Cleveland Municipal Court since 1971. Currently, Administrative Judge Larry A. Jones' nominee is Deputy Bailiff-Supervisor and is the Chief of Security at the Court, where he supervises approximately 100 bailiffs to make sure that there is "order in the court." Mr. Dennard, a native of West Virginia and father of two grown children, lives with his wife Mairiam in Oakwood Village. Also, he serves as a member of the Village Council. In addition to his duties at the Court and in Oakwood Village, Mr. Dennard finds time to be a Detective, and has recently become Director of Security at Thistle-down Race Course. Beyond all those other commitments, Mr. Dennard has found time to be active in his parish and the Elks of the World. Raymond has but one complaint about receiving this award; he found it impossible to distill many decades of faithful service at the Court into a short statement of why he found his service to the public rewarding.

THELMA PORTER—CUYAHOGA COUNTY CLERK OF  
COURTS

Since May 1973, Thelma Porter, Common Pleas Court Clerk Gerald Fuerst's nominee,

has been an employee of the County for 26 years. As Department Head of the Journal Department of the Clerk's office, where she has been for the past 22 years. Porter supervises seven other employees in ensuring that civil and domestic journal entries are properly processed, including judgment entries in the Civil and Domestic Divisions. Orders of Sale from the Sheriff's Department. Writs of Possession from foreclosures and other important legal documents. Thelma has been married to Emanuel Porter for over 43 years. The Porters have two grown children, and Thelma is proud to have raised them to be good, responsible, hard-working, honest and caring individuals. She is also blessed with a 2 year old grandchild, Amiri. A graduate of John Hay, she is an active volunteer at Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church. Thelma looks to the example of her father, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday and who taught her that hard work and treating people in a way one would like to be treated are the keys to success. Thelma's hobbies include bowling, movies, traveling and shopping at different malls.

ANN VANIK—CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Nominated by Administrative Probate Judge John Donnelly, Ann Vanik has been an employee of the Court since 1972. After serving as a deputy clerk and secretary, Ann became Probate Court Auditor, her current position, where she is responsible for maintaining personnel and payroll records, along with purchasing, accounts payable and other budgetary matters. Ms. Vanik is the mother of two daughters, and lives in South Euclid, where she is active at her parish, St. Gregory the Great, where one daughter attends school, and at Beaumont School, where her other daughter is a student. Ann spends much of her time with her daughters and is an active spectator at their volleyball, basketball, softball and fast-pitch softball games. She enjoys cooking and crafts. Each year, she and her daughters "adopt" a family at Thanksgiving and provide that family with a Thanksgiving feast. Ms. Vanik enjoys travel and has been to such varied locales as Hawaii, Cape Code, Florida, Arizona, Aruba and the Bahamas.

JOHNNY WILLIAMS—CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
JUVENILE COURT

The Juvenile Court's Administrator John Zachariah's nominee, Johnny C. Williams, has been an employee since 1973 and is a licensed social worker at the Court's Detention Center. A native of North Carolina and schooled in that state, Mr. Williams was a public school music teacher in North Carolina, and then relocated to Cuyahoga County after finishing his military service in 1972. Johnny has worked his entire life, and in addition to his duties at the Detention Center, he has provided custodial care at other agencies, including the United Labor Agency, Cleveland Crossroads for Youth and Ohio Boys Town. In addition to this award, Williams has been recognized by the National Juvenile Detention Association, on two separate occasions, and has received letters of recognition from Mayor White, Governor Voinovich, Former Congressman Stokes, Senator Metzenbaum and other public officials. Johnny is active in the 11th Congressional District Caucus and chairs its Youth Initiative Committee. He also counsels troubled students at a local middle school upon referral of that school's principal and helps supervise social work students from Cleveland State University as their Field Instructor.

SALUTE TO JOHN ALEXANDER  
AND CBORD

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, as you know, food service is the second largest contributor to our Gross National Product. The quality and expense of food is important to us all—as individuals and as a society.

I rise today to share news with you and my colleagues of dedicated food service professionals in Ithaca, New York, who have married high technology to food distribution in a way that enhances the quality and quantity of food served, while dramatically reducing waste and unnecessary expenses.

I'm referring, of course, to CBORD, which was founded in 1975 by John E. Alexander, then an MBA candidate at Cornell University, and two of his associates with a start up investment of \$1,000 each. Their dream—to create a software system that could organize the haphazard menu planning process for institutional food service systems, increase the nutritional value of every meal served, and rein in runaway food costs.

Working nights and weekends, this tireless team of entrepreneurs built their system, and today the company they launched on a shoestring served over 4,000 food service clients world wide, while employing over 300 people.

Here is a story that exemplifies the very best in American business. We have long admired individuals with a vision and the courage to pursue it until they achieve success. Today, CBORD's food service control systems are in use by major corporations, colleges and universities, health care facilities, nursing homes, and the United States Armed Services.

But there is more to this story.

In 1983, John Alexander founded the Computer Applications in Food Service Education (CAFE) Society, which provides free or reduced cost software systems for use in hospitals and dietetic programs and promotes innovative educational uses of computer applications to help solve the problems of world hunger and chronic food shortages.

CBORD is actively involved with numerous anti-hunger organizations such as HUNGER and FOODCHAIN, provides generous support to the Special Olympics, and sponsors a number of charitable and educational programs throughout the Ithaca region.

The social conscience exhibited by CBORD and the leadership that its founder, John Alexander, has shown in applying America's advancements in technology to one of the world's oldest and most pervasive problems is something we can all applaud.

It is encouraging, as we look to the dawning of the new millennium, that there are still opportunities in this great land to follow your dreams, build a thriving business from the ground up, and then share all that you've learned for the benefit of people everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WILLIAM L.  
BIELE

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief William L. Biele, who will be retiring from the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District. I hope you will join me in honoring his fine career and in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement.

Chief Biele joined the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District in October of 1959. He was promoted to Captain in 1964 and after several promotions was named Chief in 1983. During his tenure, he established an aggressive educational program to enhance the management potential of his staff as well as the establishment of an In-house District Fitness Program. This fitness program led to the District's participation in the International Firefighter Combat Challenge, in which the Creve Coeur District continually demonstrates its commitment to athletic excellence.

Not only has he distinguished himself with an impressive career with the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District, he has long been a civic leader in his community. His work with the Creve Coeur Lions Club, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Dream Factory, the Missouri Mules, the Backstoppers, the Missouri Children's Burn Camp and the Salvation Army, stand as a testament to his tireless efforts to serve the community and the less fortunate.

In addition to his many charitable and civic contributions, Chief Biele has provided leadership and expertise to several professional organizations, including: the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chiefs Association, the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Association, and the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Numerous accomplishments and contributions to professional organizations highlighted his long service with the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District. Among these are: 1978 Firefighter of the Year Award, the 1981 Lion of the Year Award, the 1997 Creve Coeur—Olivette Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Businessperson of the Year, member of the Board of Governors for the Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chief Association, Co-Chairman of the St. Louis County Fire and Police Memorial Committee and Chairman of the Central County 911 Chiefs Operating Committee.

Again, Mr. Speaker I hope you will join me in congratulating and thanking Chief Biele for his service to the residents and businesses of Creve Coeur. He is truly a great humanitarian, mentor, leader, and citizen. His efforts are indeed an inspiration to us all.

HONORING JAMES GRIFFIN, JOHN  
MERCADO AND VERNON MICHEL

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2000*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three heroes from my district: James Griffin, John Mercado, and Vernon Michel. Recently, Mr. Mercado and Mr. Griffin were presented with a Medal of Valor from the Saint

Paul police department; Gertrude Michel, the widow of Mr. Michel, accepted the award on his behalf.

Fifty years ago, these three police officers selflessly risked their lives in pursuit of a man who had robbed a liquor store, and in the process fatally shot one of their colleagues and wounded another. The suspect ran into a deserted building. After the building had been tear-gassed, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Mercado and Mr. Michel volunteered to go inside to apprehend him.

It has been said that courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear. I applaud these men for their willingness to put their fear aside, to risk their own lives to protect the lives of others. Although this event took place fifty years ago, their courageous actions serve as an inspiration to those serving in the police force today.

I have included, for my colleague's review, an article from the December 16, 1999 edition of the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, which describes the heroic actions of these three men.

HONORS FOR POLICE HEROES  
(By Amy Mayron)

*St. Paul police award the department's highest commendation to three officers for their bravery 50 years ago. "Good work should never go unrecognized," says the police chief.*

Fifty years ago, three St. Paul police officers volunteered to storm a dark, tear-gas-

filled house to find a man who had robbed a liquor store and fatally shot another police officer.

On Wednesday, the three were honored for that act with the department's Medal of Valor.

James Giffin, 82, and John Mercado, 77, who both retired in 1983, received the medal at an awards luncheon in St. Paul. The widow of Vernon Michel, who retired in 1978 and died in 1982, accepted the award for her husband.

Only 28 officers have received the department's Medal of Valor since its inception in 1965. The last medal was given in 1997. Last summer, Police Chief William Finney and people inside and outside the police department began talking about honoring the three officers for their heroism in 1949.

Finney, who grew up in St. Paul and followed a family legacy into the police force, knew the three officers throughout most of his life.

"Good work should never go unrecognized," Finney said. "Time shouldn't matter when good work is done. It's a minor thing that we let 50 years pass."

On the afternoon of Sept. 10, 1949, Oliver Crutcher of St. Paul robbed a liquor store at 365 University Ave. He ran from the store with police not far behind, and gunshots were exchanged. No one was injured, and the robber got away.

But at about 7 p.m. that day, police received a tip that Crutcher was hiding in a house at 324 St. Anthony Ave. Police sur-

rounded the building, and the suspect ran from the house firing gunshots, killing Detective Allen Lee, 38, and wounding another officer.

Police searched the neighborhood, often kicking in the doors of residences. At about 10 p.m., they got a tip that Crutcher was hiding in a building on Rondo Avenue, where Interstate 94 now runs. By that point in the manhunt, nearly 3,000 people had crowded the scene, upset about the police raids being conducted while looking for the suspect.

After tear-gassing the building, Griffin, Michel and Mercado volunteered to go inside to flush out the suspect. They went in shooting, and by the time they got to the suspect, several other officers had joined them.

Crutcher died of 12 gunshot wounds.

On Wednesday, Mercado, Griffin and Michel's widow, Gertrude Michel, smiled as Finney presented them with medals and a plaque. Michel and Mercado humbly accepted the awards and quietly thanked everyone at the luncheon.

Griffin, who retired as deputy police chief, thanked his family for supporting him throughout his career and then briefly talked about what it was like to be a rookie cop in the 1950s and the first African-American officer to join the department.

"I don't know what to say. I'm overwhelmed," he said. "When I joined the department, I never thought I'd be standing here today."

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, February 10, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 11

10 a.m.  
Budget  
To resume hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001.  
SD-608

FEBRUARY 22

9:30 a.m.  
Appropriations  
Legislative Branch Subcommittee  
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Capitol Police Board, Library of Congress, and the Government Printing Office.  
SD-116

2:30 p.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee  
To hold oversight hearings on the Administration's effort to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest lands for increased protection.  
SD-366

FEBRUARY 23

9:30 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for Indian programs.  
SR-485

10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee  
To hold oversight hearings on activities of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK).  
SR-253

10:30 a.m.  
Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Environmental Protection Agency.  
SD-406

2:30 p.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee  
To hold oversight hearings on the White River National Forest Plan.  
SD-366

FEBRUARY 24

9 a.m.  
Small Business  
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for the Small Business Administration.  
SR-428A

10 a.m.  
Environment and Public Works  
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee  
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Army Corps of Engineers.  
SD-406

Appropriations  
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee  
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Commerce.  
SD-138

2:30 p.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee  
To hold hearings on S.1722, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any 1 State; H.R.3063, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State; and S.1950, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to ensure the orderly development of coal, coalbed methane, natural gas, and oil in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming and Montana.  
SD-366

FEBRUARY 29

10 a.m.  
Appropriations  
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee  
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Justice.  
SD-192

2:30 p.m.  
Indian Affairs  
Business meeting to consider pending committee business.  
SR-485

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings on the National Association of Public Administrators' Report on Bureau of Indian Affairs Management Reform.  
SR-485

10 a.m.  
Veterans Affairs  
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendation of the Disabled American Veterans.  
345 Cannon Building

MARCH 2

9:30 a.m.  
Veterans Affairs  
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on leg-

islative recommendations of the Jewish War Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Blinded Veterans Association, and the Non Commissioned Officers Association.  
345 Cannon Building

10 a.m.  
Appropriations  
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee  
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of State.  
S-146, Capitol

2:30 p.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee  
To hold oversight hearings on the United States Forest Service's proposed revisions to the regulation governing National Forest Planning.  
SD-366

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.  
Veterans Affairs  
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Air Force Sergeants Association, and the Fleet Reserve Association.  
345 Cannon Building

10 a.m.  
Appropriations  
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee  
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Naturalization Service, all of the Department of Justice.  
SD-192

MARCH 15

10 a.m.  
Veterans Affairs  
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.  
345 Cannon Building

MARCH 21

10 a.m.  
Appropriations  
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee  
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Communications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.  
S-146, Capitol

MARCH 22

10 a.m.  
Veterans Affairs  
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Retired Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, AMVETS, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.  
345 Cannon Building

MARCH 23

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

S-146, Capitol

MARCH 29

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S.1967, to make technical corrections to the status of certain land held in trust for the Mississippi

Band of Choctaw Indians, to take certain land into trust for that Band.

SR-485

APRIL 5

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S.612, to provide for periodic Indian needs assessments, to require Federal Indian program evaluations.

SR-485

APRIL 19

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S.611, to provide for administrative procedures to extend Federal recognition to certain Indian groups.

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Veterans Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building

CANCELLATIONS

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on the proposed Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

SR-485