EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STS. PHILIP & JAMES CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Sts. Philip & James Church. A true leader in Cleveland's church community, Sts. Philip & James has progressed with the times and continues still to redefine itself in keeping with its mission of community outreach.

The decree for a new parish, to be located in Cleveland's West Boulevard neighborhood, was made effective on May 1, 1950; the cornerstone was laid on September 24 of the same year. Sts. Philip & James school opened in February of 1951, with 270 students transferring from eight area public and parochial schools. As both the school and parish continued to grow, disaster struck in 1953 when a tornado ravaged the neighborhood. For three days, Sts. Philip & James became a Red Cross Shelter for victims, and the 107th Armory Calvary Regiment established its field headquarters there. After helping the area to recover, the parish became even more active, with such groups as the women's guild, the Alter and Rosary Society, a Parent Teacher Union, a Holy Name Society, as well as numerous choirs.

Upon entrance to its second decade, Sts. Philip & James continued to grow in both numbers and facilities for the surrounding Catholic community. Though a fire in the rectory in 1963 tested the congregation's strength, it bounced back with fundraising drives establishing permanent housing for both the priests as well as the Franciscan Sisters who have been an integral part of the parish community since the school opened. Serving as both staff and teachers, the Franciscan Sisters have tirelessly dedicated their time to the betterment of the community. Like many Cleveland diocese churches, though, numbers inevitably decreased in the 70s and 80s, culminating in the eventual closing of the school in 1998. This left a smaller church community, though one which has never lost the spirit which kept Sts. Philip & James thriving through both the best and most trying of times.

Today, Sts. Philip & James is undergoing a self proclaimed ''adjustment period,'' though one that they are handling with deft and grace. The convent, abandoned when the school closed, has been converted into a maternity home for young girls who need a safe haven, and in 1999, renovations were underway on the school to create the new Horizon Science Academy for seventh, eighth and ninth grade students. Truly, Sts. Philip & James church deserves our acknowledgment and congratulations for fifty impressive years of service to the Cleveland community, and what appears to be many more years to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in rising to honor this truly remarkable institution as it celebrates fifty years of outstanding service to the Cleveland area.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE HERBERT H. BATEMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a steadfast colleague and a truly dedicated public servant. This week, this House lost a treasured friend with the passing of Representative Herb Bateman of Virginia.

One characteristic distinguished Herb throughout his 50-year career: commitment to public service. Whether as a teacher, Air Force Officer, attorney, or legislator, Herb aspired to and reached a high standard of service to his students, his country, his clients, and his constituents. I know this first-hand, since we served together for over 18 years.

In his time in the Virginia Senate, Herb distinguished himself as a leader in diverse issue areas including agriculture, energy, education, and the budget. In this body, Herb, a member of the Armed Services Committee, earned a reputation as a fighter for a strong and prepared military. He understood the dynamic role of the United States in the post-cold war world. Toward this end, Herb was a strong advocate for military readiness, and a staunch supporter of his constituents in the shipbuilding industry and the local military community.

Perhaps the greatest reasons for Herb's success as a legislator are his bipartisanship and his patriotism. He was always looking out for America's best interests, always willing to hear the other side, always capable of expressing his views in logical, rather than partisan, ways. Herb showed us the importance of duty, integrity, and responsibility in public life.

We will miss him.

MARRIAGE TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2000—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for marriage penalty tax reform. Americans should not have to pay additional taxes simply because they have made the decision to get married. However, I will continue to oppose the marriage penalty tax relief as proposed in the bill under consideration today because it offers the majority of the relief to wealthy individuals subject to this tax without regard to the economy, future revenues or tax fairness. I will vote to sustain President Clinton's veto of this misguided effort.

Many middle class Americans believe they do not receive value for their taxes. An important component of any tax reform debate should focus on renewing taxpayer's confidence that they are not only being taxed fairly, but that their tax dollars are being spend wisely. It concerns me that we are considering a marriage penalty tax relief proposal today without a broader discussion of reform of our tax policy. We don't make decisions in a vacuum and the decisions we make today will have an impact on future revenues and spending on priority initiatives.

I want to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come up with meaningful, fiscally responsible marriage penalty tax relief. We can afford to correct this oddity in the tax code and offer middle class families much needed relief. Unfortunately, the bill before us today does not do that. A couple making $31,000 annually would get a tax cut of only $182 under this bill, while the wealthiest five percent of couples would be getting a tax cut of approximately $1000 each year. Further, many of these higher-income families who would receive the majority of the relief under this bill are not impacted by the existing marriage penalty. Consequently, the bill as currently drafted gives the most affluent a marriage bonus. This isn't fair, it isn't responsible tax policy and it isn't affordable.

The bill vetoed by the President costs $292 billion over 10 years. This tax cut is $110 billion more than the version which passed the House of Representatives earlier this year. A tax cut of this size passed without regard to other tax reform needed, such as the estate tax, and without regard to other dynamics in the economy is irresponsible. Adoption of this tax cut will greatly jeopardize our nation's ability to pay down the national debt, comprehensively reform the tax code and ensure the stability of Social Security and Medicare.

I am hopeful that by working together we can come up with an economic strategy which provides fiscal security by using any surplus pay down our publicly held debt and make Social Security and Medicare solvent, while also providing a tax relief package that helps working families. The bill before us today doesn't do this and I cannot support it. I hope our actions today will bring the House leadership to the table to design a measure that the President can sign into law.