

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MARY MACK BLOUNT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Mack Blount of Brooklyn, New York for her hard work, dedication and commitment to caring for others.

Ms. Mack Blount was born in Macon, Georgia, the third of seven children born to Robert and Myrdis Mack. Mary's family moved to Shelby, North Carolina where she graduated from high school. Shortly after graduation she moved to Brooklyn where she earned her Bachelors of Science degree in Accounting from Tuoro College. After graduation she married Harry Blount. Mary and Harry have four children.

Mary has always been a committed civic activist. She was an active member of the Crown Heights Community Council as well as the Stuyvesant Action Council. Mary is also a member of the Christ Fellowship Baptist Church where she teaches Sunday School and is a member of the church-based group, Women of Words. In addition, to Mary's civic work she continues to work fulltime for the New York City Board of Education as an Education Analyst.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Mary Mack Blount is a hard working dedicated parent and civic activist with a deep commitment to her church and her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2001

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today, in honor of the thousands of men and women who proudly serve in our nation's armed forces, I take great pride in rising to formally introduce the Military Tax Credit Act of 2001.

Without question, our most valuable national security assets are the men and women who have voluntarily stepped forward to protect and defend our freedoms. Time and again, these individuals have risen to the challenge of protecting our national interests, and they have done so with a sense of honor and duty. Truly, the nation owes each and every person serving in our nation's armed forces a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices that they make every day.

Yet, there is one particularly troublesome sacrifice that many in our armed services are forced to make. This sacrifice has less to do with national security and more to do with fi-

ancial security. When it comes to providing our military personnel with an adequate system of pay we have, very simply, missed the mark. As a result, today we have a cadre of personnel, enlisted and officers, married and single, who are in a constant struggle to make their financial ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, we've all heard the horror stories of military families forced on to public assistance and personnel that have had to seek part-time jobs to supplement their military pay. It seems incredible that over the past several years, as the cost of living has grown due to the expanding economy, we have been unable to provide a military pay structure that falls in line with this growth. I am well aware of numerous well-intentioned efforts in Congress to address the situation and I have supported many of these initiatives. The various pay increases enacted over the last several years have been a tremendous help. However, they clearly have not been enough and I believe that more can and must be done to improve the financial situation of our men and women in uniform.

Since President Bush took office in January, one of the central tenets of his Administration has been to return some of the surplus back to the American people. While I may disagree with his plans to accomplish this goal, I do believe a portion of the surplus should be used to address certain issues like the military pay situation. The Military Tax Credit Act of 2001 would use funds from the budget surplus to provide a refundable tax credit to all active duty military personnel.

Under this legislation, single personnel would be eligible for a \$2800 refundable credit; while married personnel would receive a \$4000 refundable credit. In addition to those active duty personnel in the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force, the credit would extend to active duty Coast Guard and National Guard personnel. Moreover, a portion of it would be made available to any reserve personnel serving thirty or more days on active duty.

The beauty of this proposal is that even though every person; regardless of rank or grade would receive this credit, it would provide the biggest bang for the buck to those personnel that need it the most: the junior enlisted men and women and the junior officers. For single personnel at the E-6 level and below, the credit on average would be the equivalent of a 10.3 percent bonus. For married personnel in the same category the bonus would average 14.1 percent. The single junior officer would receive an average of 6.4 percent pay bonus while their married counterparts would average an 8.9 percent bonus.

All of the money that military personnel receive as a result of this credit would be tax-free. In addition, since the funds used to pay for the tax credit would come from the surplus, it would not adversely affect the overall defense budget. In fact, it barely puts a dent in the surplus. The amount of surplus funds used to support this legislation represents only 3.1% of the total surplus available—a small price to pay for such a large benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I am not a member of the Armed Services Committee, nor am I a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. And although the USS Constitution is homeported at the Charlestown Navy Yard, I have no major military installation in my district. Some might ask why then am I introducing tax credit legislation for military personnel. The answer is simple: because they deserve it. And while I don't believe that my legislation is the answer to all of the problems associated with the military's pay structure, I do believe that this is a great way to provide financial relief that is real and substantial. It is my hope that Congress agrees with me and will move to pass the Military Tax Credit of 2001.

IN TRIBUTE TO FREDRICK NELSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine, Mr. Fred Nelson, who passed away unexpectedly on February 5, 2001. Fred was an integral part of the community of Carmel, California, and will be missed by us all.

Fred and I went to school together in Carmel, and he graduated from Carmel High School in 1958. He was a great athlete. Every football team he played on lost not a single game and won all the league's championships. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Army, and served his country in uniform until 1961. After serving in the Army, he worked as a banker in the San Francisco Bay Area until finally returning to Carmel seven years ago.

For those of my colleagues who know the community of Carmel, you are first struck by the beauty of the town and the area around it. But you are equally drawn to the notion that Carmel is a town of neighbors, not occupants, and we are a tight-knit community. Many people knew and loved Fred, and I am thankful to be one of them. Fred's passing has affected many people, and he will be sorely missed by his wife, Lynne; his son, Rodrick of Los Altos, California; his mother, Winifred Haag of Carmel; his sister, Lynn Rivera of Aptos, California; and his two grandsons.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUL- MONARY HYPERTENSION ACT OF 2001

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Pulmonary Hypertension Act of 2001. In short, this legislation will ensure greater federal resources are devoted to

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

Pulmonary Hypertension research at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and complement the private efforts of the PH Community.

Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) is a rare lung disorder in which the pressure in the pulmonary artery rises above normal levels and may become life threatening. When pulmonary hypertension occurs in the absence of a known cause, it is referred to as primary pulmonary hypertension (PPH). PPH is extremely rare, occurring in about two persons per million population. As of 1998, approximately 5–10 thousand individuals suffered from this disease—the greatest number reported in women between the ages of 21 and 40. Nonetheless we now know that men and women in all age ranges, from very young children to elderly people, can develop PPH. It also affects people of all racial and ethnic origins equally.

I first became aware of this illness a couple of years ago when one of my constituents and close friend came to speak to me about a disease his now eight year-old daughter, Emily, had just recently been diagnosed with. At that time, the family was informed that there was no cure for PPH, and that Emily could not be expected to live beyond 3–5 years. I began to think that in order to get Emily and other PH sufferers a chance to really experience life, the federal investment in Pulmonary Hypertension must be expanded to take full advantage of the tremendous potential for finding a cure or effective treatment.

Why does the federal government have a role in our fight against Pulmonary Hypertension? Pulmonary hypertension is frequently misdiagnosed and has often progressed to late stage by the time it is accurately diagnosed. More importantly, PH has been historically chronic and incurable. This unpredictable survival rate has not been encouraging to patients, their families or physicians. Furthermore, in 1996–97 almost six million, Americans took anorexic drugs which can cause PPH in some people. Thousands now have PPH and are in terminal stages or have already succumbed to the disease. It is anticipated that many more cases of PPH from diet drugs will be diagnosed within the coming years.

I also believe that federal resources will complement the dollars and efforts the Pulmonary Hypertension community is doing on their own. This public-private partnership will also help ensure that everyone is working together so that we get the most “bang for the buck.”

However, thanks to efforts Congress has taken in the past, the efforts of the pulmonary hypertension community, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), that is beginning to change. New treatments are available that now allow some patients to manage the disorder for 15 to 20 years or longer, although most Pulmonary Hypertension sufferers are not that fortunate.

I am pleased that in 1981, NHLBI established the first PPH-patient registry in the world. The registry followed 194 people with PPH over a period of at least 1 year and, in some cases, for as long as 7.5 years. Much of what we know about the illness today stems from this study. But, we still do not understand the cause or have a cure for PPH.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a fork in the road. We can either take the road that becomes a dead-end, or with the Committee's help, we can take the road that provides a future for the

individuals and families of Pulmonary Hypertension.

TRIBUTE TO BERYL HAMPTON
KILGORE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Beryl Hampton Kilgore, a 75-year resident of San Jose. Beryl Kilgore will be celebrating her 100th birthday on March 31, 2001.

Beryl Hampton was born on March 31, 1901 in Forbestown in northern California. She married Charles Kilgore in 1920 and they had two daughters, Martha Miller and Norma Mencacci. The Kilgore family moved to San Jose in 1926 and Mrs. Kilgore has resided there since that time.

Beryl Hampton Kilgore has been a treasured resident of the Chai House since 1996 and is beloved by all who know her. I join my voice to the many others offering congratulations to this wonderful woman on her 100th birthday. I wish her nothing but happiness on this joyous occasion and the best to her and her family in the coming year.

HONORING SUNRISE HOUSE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and honor the important work being done by the Sunrise House Foundation and to congratulate the dedicated community leaders being honored on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Sunrise House's Halfway Home.

The anniversary of the halfway Home will be celebrated at a gala “Year of the Child” dinner this week. Honorees at the dinner include my good friends state Senator Robert E. Littell and his wife, former New Jersey GOP State Chairwoman Virginia Newman Littell. Senator Littell has been a major supporter of Sunrise House's Teen and Clean Program for addicted adolescents while Mrs. Littell has been a leading advocate of a safe haven for abused children and active in the Year of the Child celebration.

Also being honored is Lorraine Hale, daughter of the legendary Clara “Mother” Hale, with whom she founded the Hale House center for children of drug-abusing women in New York. Hale House has served as a model for the Sunrise House Halfway Home. In addition, Sussex County Prosecutor Dolores Blackburn will receive the John P. Diskin Memorial Award for her work addressing the need for addiction treatment services.

Sunrise House is a non-profit drug and alcohol treatment center in Lafayette, New Jersey. The 90-bed residential treatment facility includes intensive inpatient rehabilitation programs, an adolescent unit and outpatient programs for both adolescents and adults. Treatment includes both group and individual therapy performed by psychiatrists, psychologists, physicians, and certified counselors.

The Sunrise Halfway Home is an extended treatment program for pregnant women and new mothers at risk of relapse into drug or alcohol addiction, particularly homeless women. Participants typically enter the program during their pregnancy and receive prenatal treatment at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Following delivery, the women and their infants share a room at the Halfway Home and undergo education in parenting skills. In addition to substance abuse therapy, the women are encouraged to complete their high school diplomas if they have not already done so, and can be placed in vocational training or job placement through Sussex County Community College and the Private Industry Council.

The Halfway Home opened its doors in 1990 in Franklin, with a capacity of four women and their infants. The facility moved to Lafayette in 1997 and now has a capacity of 12 women and infants. Since its inception, the home has treated 119 women and 125 children.

Mr. Speaker, we must rehabilitate those who have made the unfortunate choice of ruining their lives and those of their children by abusing drugs or alcohol. We cannot allow innocent children to be forced to bear the burden of disastrous choices made by their parents. Programs such as the Halfway Home are vital to ensuring that the children of addicted mothers get another chance at a “normal” life. The fact that it is a public-private partnership—it receives state funding in addition to private funds from generous donors—makes it all the much better an example that should be copied across our nation.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Sunrise House, its staff, volunteers and dedicated community leaders being honored on this celebrated 10th anniversary. May God bless all those who have been so dedicated.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. DOUGLAS X.
ALEXANDER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Douglas X. Alexander for his many contributions to his East New York community.

Douglas was born and raised in Brooklyn. He attended New York City Community College and received a degree in marketing from Baruch College. He has been a business leader for many years, recently completing a successful career as a Vice President at Chase Manhattan Bank. Douglas's professional career, while challenging, did not fulfill his need to serve his community. As a result, he continues to be a dedicated community leader, serving as chairman of the Brooklyn Advisory Board of the New York Urban League, a board member of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Revolving Loan Fund, on the board of the St. Francis De Sales School for the Deaf and the New York Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Douglas has also served as a Zone Chairman, a Region Chairman, Cabinet Secretary Treasurer, a Vice District Governor and a District Governor of the Lions Club. There is no doubt that while Douglas will be retired