

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2001*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act, because I firmly believe that Congress should provide meaningful relief from the tax burden on Rhode Island's married couples.

However, we can and should improve upon this measure as it makes its way through the legislative process. In particular, the benefits of the bill must be targeted more directly to lower- and middle-income families who are currently penalized for being married. Further, the underlying bill does little to adequately adjust the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), which increasingly affects the middle class. As a result, too many middle-income families remain unprotected from having most of the promised benefits of the bill taken away.

I have additional concerns that this Congress has yet to finalize its work on a budget framework this year. We also have little perspective on how this legislation will fit into our other collective commitments to extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare and reduce our national debt. Congress needs to enact a budget that honors our commitments and our continued need to invest in education, law enforcement, the environment, health care and national defense, before enacting a large tax cut.

For these reasons, I will support both the Democratic alternative and the motion to recommit. The substitute not only takes a large step toward eliminating the marriage penalty, but also would provide substantial tax cuts to all working families in a responsible budget framework. Specifically, this measure would create a new bracket for married couples, increase the standard deduction for married couples and adjust the AMT. Finally, the motion to recommit seeks to provide an immediate tax cut to boost our economy and help those families who need assistance now.

Again, while I support final passage of this legislation because I believe hardworking Americans deserve some relief from the marriage penalty, I hope that his flawed bill will be improved in the Senate to ensure lower- and middle-income couples benefit as well. And more than anything, I urge my colleagues to focus on crafting a budget and tax cut framework that rewards hard-working taxpayers, while ensuring that our debt is paid down, Social Security and Medicare remain strong, and our national priorities like education and health care are not shortchanged.

### MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday March 29, 2001*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 6, the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001. This bill will not only do away with the unfair tax burden on married couples, but it will also double the per-child tax credit from \$500 to \$1,000. For the 25 million married couples saddled with the marriage penalty, for low and middle income parents, and for their children, this relief will not come a minute too soon.

No one should be penalized for being married. No family should be penalized for having a stay at home parent. Yet without this critical legislation we would miss an opportunity to do right by the people who sacrifice everyday to not only make a home for their family but also to pay their share of taxes. Following up on our passage of H.R. 3, this bill is another big step in the right direction.

Relief from the marriage penalty, a greater child tax credit and lowered marginal tax rates, will mean real help for real families. When fully phased in, a married couple with 2 children earning \$35,000 filing jointly will save over \$1,800 dollars a year. That's real money to invest in their children's education, pay the bills, and save for the future.

This bill is pro-marriage, pro-child, and pro-family. Not just young married couples and families, but older ones, too. The numbers don't lie. H.R. 6 would give 6 million seniors marriage tax penalty relief in 2002 and increase to 9 million seniors in 2010.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001. Vote to support our nation's families.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROLYN CRAYTON, THE FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BOTH THE KEEP MACON-BIBB BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION AND THE MACON, GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

**HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2001*

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mrs. Carolyn Crayton, the founder and executive director of both the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission and the Macon, Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival. She has dedicated herself to community service, ensuring that our communities stay clean and beautiful.

She has worked tirelessly since 1964 as the Founder and Executive Director of Keep

Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission. Carolyn has been the recipient of the Keep America Beautiful's Leadership Award and the Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Award. She was also awarded the Queen Mother's Award, which was presented by the Keep Britain Tidy Group, this being the only time this honor was awarded outside the United Kingdom. Carolyn was invited to appear on Good Morning America in 1984, as one of several people who have made a difference in their community. In 1988, she received the Georgia Clean and Beautiful Woman of the Year Award, which is now named the Carolyn Crayton Award.

Carolyn is also responsible for founding the Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival. Carolyn's dedication and hard work are the reason we are able to enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival and all the beautiful cherry blossom trees. She and her organization are responsible for their presence in the State of Georgia. She has received a Certificate of Merit from the Georgia Garden Clubs of Georgia and the Ladies Home Journal Heroine Award. Carolyn has done such a wonderful job with the production and management of the Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, she was named the Festival Director of the Year in Georgia in 1995. One year later she was inducted into the International Festivals and Events Association's Hall of Fame. In 1999, she received the Deen Day Smith Award.

Unfortunately, Carolyn is retiring this year. I would like to recognize and commend her for all the hard work she has done for the State of Georgia, more specifically Macon. She has selflessly given her time and effort as an active community leader and should be an example to all of us.

Carolyn and her husband Lee are dear friends and I am very proud of the great contribution they have both made to the State of Georgia.

CONGRATULATING CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2001*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, March Madness means many things to many people. In the quest for college basketball's holy grail, March represents the time when champions are crowned in all divisions. This week, I am proud to congratulate the Cloud County Community College women's basketball team from Concordia, Kansas. This past Saturday, the lady Thunderbirds won the National Junior College Athletic Association national title.

For this team, this program, and this community, the championship is indeed a great honor. At times, it is easy to get wrapped up in all of the hype surrounding college athletics, but I think Cloud County coach, Brett Erkenbrack, said it best: "Great team, a tremendous bunch of young ladies, and a great crowd."

● 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.

Cloud County is the first Kansas team to win the women's title in the 27 year history of the NJCAA tournament. The team includes three players selected to the All-Tournament Team, including Paulette Valentine, N'Keisa Richardson, and the tournament Most Valuable Player, Miklannet Tennial.

The talented players on Coach Erkenbrack's team fought a difficult road on the way to earning the National title, defeating the number 5 and number 1 seeds, as well as enduring an overtime victory in the semifinals.

The Concordia community also rallied around their home team. Attendance at the championship game was the biggest of the tournament and beat last year's mark by over 25%. This is a story of teamwork, preparation, and hard work, combined with a supportive community and families all pulling together for a championship run. It is a great story to tell and a story worth repeating.

Congratulations again to the Cloud County Women's Basketball team. They truly are champions.

RECOGNIZING EVAN DOBELLE'S  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HARTFORD  
COMMUNITY

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2001*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention a true leader in the First Congressional District of Connecticut, and a good friend of mine, Dr. Evan Dobelle. For the past six years, Dr. Dobelle has served as the President of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. In those six years, he has expanded that role of president of the private college to that of an effective leader in the surrounding urban community—transforming the outlook and prosperity of both the school and the community. It is now with bittersweet enthusiasm that I must wish Dr. Dobelle well as he embarks on his newest endeavor to become the President of the University of Hawaii.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Evan Dobelle began his commitment to the community in his twenties, serving two terms as the Mayor of Pittsfield, MA. At age 31, Dr. Dobelle was selected United States Chief of Protocol for the White House and Assistant Secretary of the State with the rank of Ambassador under the Carter Administration. Before assuming his position at Trinity College, he served as Chancellor and President of City College of San Francisco, and president of Middlesex Community College in Lowell, MA. He holds a bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in education and public policy from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master's in public administration at Harvard University.

In 1995, Evan Dobelle came to Hartford to serve as the eighteenth president of Trinity College; a school synonymous with rigorous academics, but also known for its location in economically depressed area of Frog Hollow. It is a picture of pristine academia located within the heart of one of Hartford's forgotten neighborhoods. With Trinity, Evan faced one of his toughest challenges. Not only did he have to enhance the quantity and quality of

applicants, and increase Trinity's endowment, Evan was responsible for improving relations with the neighborhood surrounding the gates of Trinity. Recognizing the benefits that both the community and the school had to offer one another, Evan embraced the surrounding neighborhood and called upon both the community and the college to work in partnership for mutual improvement. While successfully achieving the goals outlined for enrollment and endowments, Dobelle also used his innovation and leadership to play a vital role in orchestrating and executing the Learning Corridor, a \$250 million neighborhood redevelopment project, consisting of four public elementary schools, a boys and a girls club, a center for family services, a limited housing renovation, and effectively satisfying the third requirement of his presidency and creating a national model. It is for this accomplishment he will be remembered so fondly for by the people of the city of Hartford.

The Learning Corridor redevelopment project has been one of the most celebrated and successful ventures the City of Hartford has seen. It is due largely in part to the dedication and leadership of Dr. Evan Dobelle. In his six years as president of Trinity College and a resident of the City of Hartford, Evan Dobelle has become an inspiration to his adopted community in Hartford.

Dr. Dobelle has gone beyond the call of duty and done a tremendous job not only for Trinity College, but the entire city of Hartford. I commend him for his excellent work, and wish him the best, as I know he will give nothing less than that to the students of the University of Hawaii and its surrounding communities.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON  
THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to this budget resolution. In particular, I object to its cornerstone: an enormous tax cut that is skewed towards the wealthy and based on unreliable ten-year surplus projections. Furthermore, it usurps funds that should go to other critical priorities—including long-term debt reduction, creating a stable defense, improving education, providing affordable health care and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

What is most important to me and many of my colleagues is that we enact a budget based on principles, not politics. I believe we should start by honoring our promises, and I remain committed to paying down the national debt, while providing responsible tax relief and ensuring our most pressing needs are met.

The Administration's budget calls for a \$2 trillion tax cut (including the resulting increased interest costs) that disproportionately benefits the wealthiest one percent of our society. However, the budget fails to explain how our other national needs can be funded. When properly accounted for, the \$1.4 trillion "reserve," which the budget resolution delineates as available for "additional needs," would not even cover the costs of maintaining current programs, let alone support the initiatives the President himself proposed during his campaign.

We would all like to reward hard-working Americans by returning some of their tax dollars, but we also have an obligation to pay down as much of our publicly held debt as we possibly can. We ought not pass these bills onto our children, as the Bush Administration and this budget resolution propose.

Further, we should use our current prosperity to enhance those federal programs relied upon by some of the most vulnerable members of society. Our senior citizens, as well as younger generations, deserve to know that the Social Security system will be strong and viable, whether they need it now or in twenty years. We must reform and strengthen Medicare, without slashing benefits or increasing costs for seniors. And we must provide an affordable prescription drug component for all seniors.

This budget resolution would cut appropriated federal programs that are absolutely vital to our nation's small business, worker, health, environmental protection, and housing needs. The Bush budget also shortchanges our vast transportation and infrastructure needs, decreases funding for critical law enforcement programs, and cuts budget authority for the benefits our veterans need and deserve. And at a time when an energy crisis is threatening large portions of our country, why would the Administration propose to cut our energy budget below current levels?

Furthermore, the Small Business Administration (SBA) would receive a cut of over 46 percent in its overall budget. Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy and account for more than 95 percent of the jobs in the state. They bring new and innovative services and products to the market place and provide business ownership opportunities to diverse and traditionally underrepresented groups. Many of these small businesses rely on the valuable loan assistance and technical training programs offered by the SBA. These cuts could severely impact Rhode Island's small business community, just when we need their contributions the most.

I support a more balanced approach to our federal budget that allows for a significant tax cut, but also takes into consideration a wide range of short and long-term budgetary needs. It is for these reasons that I will support the Democratic and Blue Dog alternatives.

Under the Democratic alternative, we could extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare and have a sizable tax cut that would benefit every family. This measure would also allow us to adequately fund our top priorities, including education, prescription drugs, defense and small business, and still retire all redeemable public debt by 2008.

The Blue Dog Budget Alternative would set forth a five-year budget framework to account for the uncertainties in long-term budget forecasts. The plan provides for retiring over half

the publicly held debt by 2006 and eliminating back-loaded tax cuts and unnecessary spending increases. By reserving half of the on-budget surplus for the next five years, we could continue to pay down the debt and strengthen Social Security and preserve Medicare. Finally, like the Democratic alternative, the Blue Dog budget sets aside a pool of money to help states and localities improve their voting systems in time for the next federal elections. The Bush framework completely ignores this urgent need.

The Bush Administration's budget threatens the quality of life of millions of Americans. There are many tough choices ahead, but I firmly believe that with cooperation and an eye towards operating within a responsible framework, this Administration and Congress can and should develop a budget that will ensure that everyone's needs are met. I encourage my colleagues to join me in rejecting this ill-conceived Republican proposal and supporting instead a sensible, well-balanced budget resolution that speaks to the needs of every American family.

MAGGIE LENA WALKER

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2001*

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Women's History Month, I rise to honor the contributions of a distinguished woman. I would like to share with the House the remarkable life of Maggie Lena Walker, a Richmond, Virginia native and a business and community leader in the early part of the 20th Century. Maggie Walker is well known for her efforts on behalf of the African American community in Richmond and in the development and success of Richmond's historic Jackson Ward community, among the oldest African American communities in the country.

Maggie Walker was born on July 15, 1867. She spent her childhood at the Van Lew Mansion in Richmond, Virginia, where her mother, a former slave, worked as a cook's helper. As an abolitionist, Miss Van Lew made sure that all of her servants received a good education. It was here that Maggie Walker began to learn the value and importance of education.

Like many educated African American women during that time, Maggie Walker's first contribution was in the field of education where she taught in the public school system after her graduation from Armstrong Normal School in Richmond. She was required to leave the teaching profession after her marriage and soon recognized the limited availability of job opportunities for African American women. Further, it was Walker's belief that African American women had an instrumental part to play in the economic and political success of the African American community. This

belief was manifested in Walker's founding of the Woman's Union, an insurance company, and the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank, where in 1903 she was the first woman bank president in the United States.

The Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank, as its name suggests, was established as an institution whose interest was the small investors, literally the pennies of the African American washerwomen—ultimately proving that even with pennies, the African American community had economic power. Maggie Walker's Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank merged with two other banks to become Consolidated Bank and Trust, the oldest existing African American owned and operated bank in the U.S., with several branches today in Richmond and Hampton, Virginia.

This Saint Luke Emporium, a department store located in the Jackson Ward section of Richmond, was started by Walker and is yet another example of her promotion of African American economic empowerment. It employed scores of African American women and provided the African American community the opportunity to purchase goods from its own businesses. The Jackson Ward community in Richmond benefited greatly from Walker's influence and keen sense of business acumen; today, the Jackson Ward is known historically as the center of Richmond's African American business and social life.

Maggie Walker's leadership was not confined to the business community. She set the groundwork for the local women's suffrage movement and voter registration efforts after the passage of the 19th Amendment. The evidence of her success is in the fact that close to 80 percent of eligible black voters in Richmond in the 1920s were women. Maggie Walker boldly challenged the political establishment in 1921 when she ran for State Superintendent of Public Instruction on the "Lily Black" Republican ticket. Although her campaign for public office was unsuccessful, it confirmed African American women's important role in the political arena and it also further invigorated the interest of the African American community in the political process.

On April 26, 2001, the Junior Achievement National Hall of Fame will recognize Maggie Walker's accomplishments as the country's first African American female bank president. The mission of Junior Achievement is to ensure that every child in America has a fundamental understanding of the free enterprise system. Ms. Walker is a prime example in making that goal a reality. During her days at the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, the bank provided small cardboard boxes to children to encourage them to save their pennies. When the children had one dollar saved, they could open a savings account with the bank. This tradition continues today at the Consolidated Bank & Trust Company. Maggie Walker's work as a political leader and business entrepreneur is a reminder to us all that the success of the African American community de-

pends on both economic and political development.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF CESAR  
CHAVEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2001*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of a great leader, Cesar E. Chavez. His memory serves as a constant reminder of the hardships facing working families every day and an inspiration to those who strive to speak up for people whose voices go unheard.

The teachings of Cesar Chavez have inspired millions of people in our country. One might argue that the practices of our country's labor community can be attributed to the lessons that were taught by the late Cesar Chavez. In carrying out his mission, Chavez developed and lived with a unique blend of values, philosophies, and styles. Although he organized predominantly Hispanic workers, Chavez' commitment to non-violence, volunteerism, egalitarianism, and respect for all cultures, religions and lifestyles, has served as the guiding principle of the U.S. labor movement for the past fifty years.

In 1989, Chavez conducted a 36-day fast to protest the pesticide poisoning of migrant workers in California. For years, workers were coming into contact with harmful pesticides that had led to, in many cases, cancer. Farm owners had ignored the problem and Chavez was infuriated. During a speech on the 36th day of his fast, Chavez declared, "If we ignored pesticide poisoning, if we looked on as farm workers and their children are stricken, then all the other injustices our people face would be compounded by an even more deadly tyranny. But ignore that final injustice is what our opponents would have us do."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the injustices that Cesar Chavez fought against for fifty years, and the living conditions he spoke out against, still exist today. We have a responsibility in Congress to continue the fight where Cesar Chavez left off. We have a responsibility to speak for those who cannot speak, and to fight for those who cannot fight. Improving working conditions, increasing the minimum wage, and providing quality benefits for all workers remain at the forefront of our challenges on behalf of working families. We should use today's commemoration of Cesar Chavez' life to renew our commitment not to "ignore that final injustice," and protect the rights of working families. If we do ignore them, then we are forgetting the great lessons taught to us by this great hero. That would be an injustice in itself.