

overtaxed for the rest of our lives, is to keep borrowing money and running up our debt. Our children will be forced to pay ever higher taxes just to pay the increasing interest on the debt we will incur today. Under the majority's budget, the debt tax will consume more than twenty percent of taxes just to pay interest on our national debt by the end of the decade.

It is irresponsible for us to pass a tax cut for ourselves today that leaves the bill to our children and grandchildren in the form of a crushing national debt.

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush told us, "This country has many problems. We will not deny, we will not ignore, we will not pass along our problems to other Congresses, to other presidents and other generations." As a proud grandfather who wants to leave a better future for my grandchildren, I enthusiastically applauded that statement. Unfortunately, our current budget policies and this growth plan will only grow our national debt and pass the bill on to future generations.

With respect to this bill being a jobs plan, I submit that in its zeal to pass a tax cut, any tax cut that adheres to an arbitrary number, the majority has crafted a bill guaranteed to cost us jobs in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this bill contains so many gimmicks, with phase-ins and phase-outs, that it defies comprehension and makes it impossible for any responsible business or individual to plan for the future. For example, this bill helps married individuals and families by expanding the lower bracket, increasing the child tax credit and eliminating the marriage penalty—but only for 2 years. But all of these good policies (many of which I have supported in the past) will revert back to current law in 2005. It helps businesses expand, grow and create jobs by increasing the code's expensing and depreciation provisions—but these good, pro jobs policies disappear in 2004 and 2005, respectively.

"Why?" you ask, do these pro-family and pro-jobs provisions disappear after 1 or 2 years? To make room for a proposal that does nothing to create jobs—an ill-conceived dividend reduction proposal that will only concentrate capital in the hands of shareholders without providing any incentives for businesses to create new jobs.

I believe that the President's call to eliminate the so-called double taxation of dividends is a goal toward which we should all work; however, this Congress should consider this proposal in the context of broad individual and corporate tax reform after we've gotten our fiscal house in order. I urge my colleagues to vote against this tax proposal and instead work together on a bipartisan basis to achieve true tax reform, reduction and simplification in the context of a new economic plan to get our country moving again.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL JOE D. DUNAWAY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Joe D. Dunaway for his heroic service in the United States Military during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon graduating from Northeastern Oklahoma State University in May of 1985, Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway completed several different courses at Fort Rucker, Alabama and Fort Eustis, Virginia. His initial assignment was to the 4th Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fulda, Germany. There, Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway held positions that included Command Aviation Platoon Leader and Air Cavalry Troop Commander. In 1990, he returned to the United States and served at both Fort Eustis and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. At Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, he attended the Command and Central Staff College and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division as the Division Aviation Maintenance Officer, AVIM Company Command of Company A, and Battalion Executive Officer for the 8–101st Aviation Regiment.

During his time in the military, Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway has been recognized with many honors. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with a silver oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Master Aviator Badge, an Air Assault Badge, and an Airborne Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom as the 8–101st Battalion Commander marked his second tour of duty. He served as a role model for all as he bravely stood in defense of our nation and a free world. His devotion and commitment to this country are commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and the entire nation to Lieutenant Colonel Joe D. Dunaway for his participation in this latest conflict in Iraq. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his fine service and wishing him well as he returns to the Aviation Branch to serve as Branch Chief.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
GLADYS HANDROP

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mrs. Gladys Handrop. Mrs. Handrop has successfully completed over fifty-six years of honorable government service to the citizens of Alabama and Florida.

Mrs. Handrop was first employed in government service in the Escambia County Alabama Tax Assessors office on March 17, 1947. The Escambia County Florida Tax Assessors office later employed her on December 9, 1952.

Mrs. Handrop has been an extremely valuable asset to the agencies and officers by whom she has been employed. She has served under the Honorable Tax Assessors and Property Appraisers Mrs. Frances Botts, Mr. M.B. "Bill" Jones, Mr. John R. Jones, Jr. and Mr. Chris Jones.

Mrs. Handrop has displayed never failing loyalty to the citizens, by whom she has been employed and has been a tireless political ally to many honored officers to this county and state.

Mrs. Handrop is known and respected by legal and real estate professionals throughout

Escambia County who she has assisted and guided in their practices. She has consistently been a "family" member, friend, confidant, role model, source of strength and mentor to all of those with whom she has worked.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this special person for the example she has set in her community. I offer my sincere thanks for all that she has done for Northwest Florida and this great nation.

CONGRATULATING PEDRO PALOMO
ADA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Pedro Palomo Ada, who we all know affectionately as "Pete Ada, Jr." for being inducted into the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Guam Business Hall of Fame.

Pete Ada, Jr. is an icon of the Guam business community who has done many great things for the island of Guam. He is one of Guam's original entrepreneurs. His success as a businessman is rooted in his hard work, ingenuity, and work ethic, which serves as an inspiration for young businessmen and women on Guam. His induction into the Guam Business Hall of Fame is a testament to his outstanding career and his contributions to our community. I join the Guam Chamber of Commerce, our civic organizations, and our island in commending Pete Ada, Jr. and in congratulating him on this lifetime achievement.

Mr. Ada began his business career while at college at Saint Thomas Military Academy in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Pete would send shoes and other great bargains to Guam for resale in his parents' retail business. After college, he served as one of the first Chamorro commissioned officers in the United States Air Force and later returned to Guam to help with the family business, Ada's Markets. He transformed his family's retail business into a household name, and later, into a real estate holding company. In the process, he transformed how a whole generation viewed business opportunities on Guam. He is a visionary who saw the potential for new residential developments, commercial real estate developments and new markets. He created opportunities for our island and in the process he helped Guam re-define itself from a military service economy to a strong private sector economy with a robust capital investment sector.

Pete Ada, Jr. is presently the Chairman of the investment firm he founded, Ada's Trust and Investment, Inc. and Chairman of Nanbo Guam, Ltd. He is a Director of the Bank of Guam, Pizza Hut of Guam, and Pacific Textiles. He owns 18 commercial properties and is responsible for developing 28 properties throughout his career.

As a model citizen, Pete Ada Jr. championed the ROTC program at the University of Guam. He has supported the Boy Scouts and KGTF Public Television, and he has been active in the Air Force's Civilian Advisory Council. He has served as a board member of several government boards, including the Retirement Fund, the Guam Visitors Bureau, the

Guam Memorial Hospital, the University of Guam and the Guam Blue Ribbon Education Committee. In addition, he served on the board of the former Medical Center of the Marianas. In recognition of his service, he received an Honorary Doctor of Law degree in 1983 from the University of Guam.

Pete Ada, Jr. epitomizes the businessman whose success derives from a motivation to provide products and services that make his community a better place to live, and who has profited as a by-product of that dedication. By his induction into the Guam Business Hall of Fame, he sets a standard for others to emulate. We congratulate him and his proud wife Fe and their family, and we join with all the people of Guam in celebrating his achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE ZACCAGNINO FAMILY, AMERICA'S FUNNIEST FAMILY, FROM ELMWOOD PARK, IL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Zaccagnino family, from Elmwood Park, in the 5th Congressional District of Illinois. The Zaccagnino family was chosen from hundreds of families who submitted videotapes in hopes of winning the ABC Family cable network "My Life Is a Sitcom" contest, replete with a chance of starring in a sitcom based on their life.

According to a recent Chicago Tribune article, the Zaccagnino family is already famous—and their sitcom hasn't even aired yet! Evidently, the family—Diane, Karen, Camille and Danny—have been feted by everyone in Chicago; and now Capitol Hill! Horwath's restaurant threw them a party; their state representative filed a resolution in their honor; teachers are using the family's history as assignments; and the crème de la crème—the family recently taped "The Oprah Show."

Finding humor in life is challenging, but the Zaccagnino family sets a great example. Karen is the owner of Karen's Hair'm, a beauty salon located on Belmont Avenue, where societal issues are viewed through changing hairstyles. And as Elmwood Park is known for its outstanding Italian food, it's understandable that a lot of the laughs take place in the kitchen. I am proud of Chicago's own Zaccagnino family, and I look forward to seeing their lives coming soon to a television near you.

Chicagoans can see the funny family for themselves on the ABC Family website where visitors can view video submissions and vote for their choice for "America's Funniest Family."

I urge my colleagues, indeed all of America, to keep an eye out for the Zaccagnino family. I have a feeling we'll all be wishing we were part of such a loving, funny and lively family.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, conserving our environment is important. Our forests are an important part of both Michigan's and our country's environment. In the west, catastrophic wildfires have decimated our forests over the last several years destroying both government and private property. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (H.R. 1904) is a common-sense, cost-effective piece of legislation that helps to control these fires as well as combat destructive insect and disease infestations in our forests.

Removing some of the bureaucratic red tape for performing fire prevention measures is not only environmentally friendly but also fiscally responsible, as fire prevention costs American taxpayers approximately one-fourth of what it costs to fight catastrophic forest fires. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act authorizes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to reduce the amount of underbrush and deadwood buildup in forests that serve as kindling and fuel for the hottest, most dangerous fires. It would regulate BLM's activities by putting limits on the tree removal and road construction that has provoked controversy at times in the past. This would give BLM the tools it needs to confront the increasing threat of destructive forest fires on federal lands that have had serious impacts both on people and wildlife.

The bill takes additional measures to improve our forests. These include provisions to encourage energy production from renewable energy sources, protection of watersheds in forest areas and the creation of a forest reserve program aimed at preserving and rehabilitating up to one million acres of degraded and rare forest lands.

Disease and insect infestations are not only detrimental to our woodlands, but also to our tree-lined streets and backyards. In southeast Michigan, we are combating an exotic beetle known as the Emerald Ash Borer. The beetles' larvae feed on the sapwood and eventually kill branches and entire trees. This invasive pest has resulted in the quarantine of all ash products in six counties in southeastern Michigan. There are 28 million ash trees in the six quarantined counties and an estimated 700 million ash trees in Michigan. We are now finding that the pest is spreading into Ohio. The magnitude of this problem is serious. Preliminary data from the Forest Service estimates that the potential national impact of the Emerald Ash Borer is a loss of ash trees up to 2 percent of total timber with a value loss of between \$20–60 billion.

Following discussions with Secretary Veneman and gaining the support of the Michigan delegation, Michigan Department of Agriculture, and DNR we were able to get the approval of \$14.6 million in emergency assistance from USDA to combat the Emerald Ash Borer. This federal funding will supplement resources provided by state and local authorities and will be used for pest surveillance, quarantine of infected areas, and some tree removal. In order to more efficiently combat de-

structive pests like the Emerald Ash Borer, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act puts in place measures that will allow accelerated information gathering on such insect infestations. By removing bureaucratic red tape and being more proactive in maintaining forest health, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act is a step in the right direction towards efficiently managing our forests, preventing catastrophic fires, controlling damaging insect infestations, and protecting our environment.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1588) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, the legislation before us is of great importance, perhaps today more than ever. Even as we debate this legislation today, our brave men and women are serving in harm's way. That is why I strongly support many provisions of this legislation; particularly the 4.1 percent across-the-board pay increase for military personnel, as well as the vital readiness, modernization, and infrastructure improvements, which will keep our forces the best-trained and best-equipped in the world.

As we are all painfully aware, there are many security challenges that face our great nation. As such, it is critical that we provide the necessary investments in our national defense. However, because of several highly controversial provisions in what is traditionally a bipartisan bill, I have strong reservations about supporting H.R. 1588 as it is currently written.

One of my primary concerns pertains to the environmental provisions in this legislation that weaken environmental protections. Although I fully support maintaining the highest possible level of military training and readiness, I believe such readiness must also be balanced against our duty to protect at-risk species, especially in light of existing Department of Defense exemptions in current environmental laws. H.R. 1588 does not adequately address this concern.

The Department of Defense contends that military training on the approximately 25 million acres of land at the more than 425 installations nationwide is greatly constrained by environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. However, a GAO report issued in June 2002 found that training readiness remains high and that the ESA and the MMP are not hampering military readiness. In addition, existing environmental laws already have national security exemptions, yet DoD has never bothered to apply for them. Although I support Chairman HUNTER's attempt to temper this extreme anti-environmental provision, I am dismayed that Democrats were denied the right to offer the Rahall/Dingell amendment,