

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2989) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Cooper-DeLauro-Kilpatrick amendment to H.R. 2989. This amendment would transfer \$75 million from the Internal Revenue Service's EITC enforcement initiative. The money would instead be used to audit large and medium-sized corporations.

In former IRS Commissioner Rossotti's end-of-term report, the IRS lacks the resources to address 28% of the mid and large corporation workload that should be accomplished each year. This lack of enforcement translates into the government losing \$6.5 billion in direct tax revenues on an annual basis, according to the GAO.

The \$75 million provided under the Cooper-DeLauro-Kilpatrick amendment would give the IRS just over half of the \$180 million that the IRS needs to conduct nearly 7,000 more mid and large corporations audits.

Given that the IRS lacks adequate resources to perform audits and investigations, I cannot understand why the IRS has recently launched a new program to overhaul the EITC program.

As you know, the EITC is the government's primary assistance program for low-income working families. Last year, about 19 million taxpayers claimed more than \$32 billion in EITC benefits. This money can be the determining factor for whether a low-income worker's family will live above the poverty line. This is a vulnerable population.

Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that many of my constituents who are eligible for the EITC are already deterred from claiming the credit because of existing filing requirements. I fear that forcing them to submit a new form will only increase the likelihood that eligible low-income parents will be further dissuaded from claiming the credit.

That would be a terrible shame.

Mr. Chairman, as I said before, given the IRS' limited resources, I cannot, for the life of me, understand the rationale behind spending \$75 million on overhauling EITC procedures especially since EITC overclaims account for less than 3 percent of the estimated total taxes that go uncollected. Why hasn't the IRS made a similar commitment to capturing the \$40 billion that the GAO says that businesses underreport on an annual basis?

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as a matter of fairness, the IRS should not require low-income Americans to meet a higher standard than every other taxpayer, while at the same time they fail to crack down on fraud in business and higher income taxpayers.

I call on my colleagues to join me in support of the Cooper-DeLauro-Kilpatrick amendment.

HONORING DR. LOUISE R.
D'OLIVEIRA

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doctor Louise R. D'Oliveira, a talented and caring constituent of mine who recently passed away.

Dr. D'Oliveira, a native of Louisiana who came to the United States from South Africa in 1980, was an ordained Methodist minister and devoted her life to helping those less fortunate than herself. She directed the Women's Christian Center in Tampa and was an advisory board member of Everybody's Tabernacle-Homeless Emergency Project in Clearwater. This organization helps hungry and homeless individuals who have nowhere else to turn in their greatest times of need.

Louise also was considered one of the world's foremost adult literacy experts. She chaired the African Division of Laubach Literacy and also founded and directed Operation Upgrade South Africa, programs which helped untold numbers of adults worldwide learn to read. She also authored several books about Africa and her native Louisiana. In addition, she was an Army veteran of World War II.

Mr. Speaker, the world lost a wonderful woman and dedicated advocate for learning when Louise D'Oliveira's earthly life ended. However, I am certain that, wherever she is today, she is sharing her wisdom and knowledge with whomever she encounters.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND EUGENE
FENTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and a devoted spiritual leader. Reverend Eugene Fenton of La Junta, Colorado has served as a minister for twenty-five years. Before joining the ministry, Eugene worked for twenty-five years as a plant manager and industrial engineer. His devotion, hard work, and humility inspire those around him, and his dedication to his career shows a spirit of loyalty all too rare in today's society. I rise to honor his service here today.

Eugene is the pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in La Junta. He has served all across this country as a pastor, teacher, coach, and counselor. He came to La Junta after trying to retire and finding that he still wanted to work. His parishioners refer to him as a "God send" whose tireless work has strengthened and uplifted their church.

Eugene's remarkable loyalty is shown not only by the twenty-five years he has devoted to the ministry, but also by the twenty-five years he devoted to his career as a plant manager and industrial engineer before he took up his pastoral studies. Eugene leads by example and often draws on his experiences to better relate to his parishioners.

Mr. Speaker, Eugene Fenton is the kind of devoted leader our community looks to for

guidance and inspiration. He has devoted twenty-five years to his chosen career guiding his parishioners. I am honored to join with his colleagues today to thank him for his tireless work and to wish him the best of luck as he continues to serve the community that he loves so much.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, and 468. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 463. I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 464. I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 465. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 466, 467, and 468.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MYSAK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Myszak, a teacher of 39 years, who passed away Tuesday, July 8th of cancer at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. During his lifetime Mr. Myszak was an outstanding member of the local community. He will be sorely missed by his wife of twenty years, Martha Myszak; two daughters Stephanie Hulse and Donna Wenger; three stepdaughters, Vauncia Parker, Valeria Alexander and Marsheila DeVan; and eight grandchildren.

Mr. John Myszak was born on October 6th, 1934 in Flint, Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree from California State University at Hayward and a master's degree in education from San Jose State University. He served in the United States Marine Corps and taught in the Pacific Grove Unified School District for twenty-one years, in addition to working part time as an instructor at Monterey Peninsula College.

During his twenty-eight years living in Seaside, he served as a member of the California Teacher's Association, the National Teacher's Association and the CSU-Monterey Bay Teacher Education Committee. As well as being involved with local education issues, Mr. Myszak was a member of St. John's Episcopal Chapel, John Paul II Foundation of Monterey, Friendship Circle and the Parade of Nations. In his free time he enjoyed his work as a docent for the Monterey History and Arts Association, gardening, writing and ballroom dancing.

Mr. Speaker, today I wish to join the local community and Mr. John Myszak's family and friends in honoring the life of such a commendable teacher, father and citizen.