

Truly, Carl Lamm has been a unique man in a unique time in Johnson County. Through the radio, he has recorded the county's comings and goings, the births and deaths, the struggles and the triumphs, and the dreams of tomorrow.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, with 80.2% of voters participating in Taiwan's recent Presidential election, I congratulate the country's 23 million citizens for once again demonstrating the strength and vibrancy of their democracy.

The very close margin of victory calls for a recount, and impassioned protests are not unfamiliar to voters in our own country who experienced the aftermath of the 2000 Presidential election. We know that protection of free expression and other personal freedoms are signs of a healthy democracy.

As Taiwan's democratic society has grown strong, its citizens have prospered. The transformation of Taiwan from an impoverished backwater into an industrial powerhouse, and from a one party dictatorship into a multiparty democracy is among the most impressive economic and political accomplishments of our time.

I send my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on the completion of their third direct presidential election.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS.
FANNIE BELLE CALLAHAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County, Alabama, and indeed the entire First Congressional District recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor her and pay tribute to her memory.

Fannie Belle Callahan was a devoted mother, grandmother, and friend to the Mobile community throughout her entire life. At the time of her passing on March 15, 2004, she had devoted 94 years to the care of her children, her family, and her city.

Raised with her three siblings in the small community of Crichton, Alabama, Mrs. Callahan was required at an early age to go to work to help support her family following the death of her father. By the age of 17, she had already worked as a telephone operator, a cashier at Mobile's Saenger Theater, and a night clerk at the Battle House Hotel. Following her marriage to Herbert Callahan, she moved to East St. Louis, Illinois, but returned to Mobile three years later when he obtained a job with the GM&O Railroad.

Widowed at the time of her husband's death in 1950, Mrs. Callahan was once again required to go to work to support her large family of nine children. Although she retired in 1965 after many years of employment with the Mobile District Office of the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers, she was not one to sit idly by and watch life go on in the world around her. She became actively involved in the political campaigns of her sons Sonny and George, and following Sonny's election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1984 volunteered her time as the receptionist in his Mobile district office. Mrs. Callahan quickly became the center of her son's office "family," and for the remainder of her life was always referred to affectionately as "Mom Callahan."

Throughout her 94 years, Fannie Belle Callahan taught many valuable lessons to her family and friends, and everyone who came in contact with her took away very fond memories of a charming southern lady who could make anyone to whom she was speaking feel they were the most important person at that time. In an article which appeared in the Mobile Register in 2000, Mrs. Callahan reflected on her long and rewarding life and spoke about how her years of hard work were rewarded with the successes her children enjoyed.

Many of her children were also interviewed and offered their perspectives on the lessons they had learned from the matriarch of a family made up of 94 men, women, and children. Perhaps her son, former Rep. Sonny Callahan, best summed up her long life and what she passed on to her children when he said, "She taught us responsibility. With nine kids, there had to be some degree of responsibility. She taught us to respect people and work hard."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a lovely woman who deeply loved, encouraged, and respected her many family and friends and the entire Mobile community. "Mom Callahan" will be deeply missed by her family—her sons, Sonny Callahan, George Callahan, Charles Callahan, and Terrance Callahan; her daughters, Patsy Dempster, Madeline Martin, Margaret Ann Athey, Mary Jane Emick, and Rose Callahan; and her 32 grandchildren, 56 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE TO
REQUIRE A SIMPLIFICATION
TITLE IN ANY TAX MEASURE

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to amend the rules of the House regarding legislative measures changing our tax laws. The proposed change would prevent the consideration of any tax measure unless it contained a title simplifying the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

We are at a state where, I believe, tax simplification should be a top priority of our legislative efforts. In a word, the Code is a mess. The current size amounts to an incredible 9,490 pages. The Code has become too complex. Over the years it has become a destination for provisions that may be admirable, but should belong elsewhere. The inclusion of these provisions in the Code puts an extra burden on the Internal Revenue Service—one

that it may not be particularly adept at handling. Many tax provisions simply are mind-numbing in their detail and burdensome in their compliance requirements. It is not a simple task, for more than a few citizens do their own returns. The tax preparation service has ballooned. Many are either disinclined or unable to deal with the tax process.

As you know, I'm not a tax lawyer. I'm merely an old glass man from Corning, New York. In talking to a member of the Ways and Means tax staff on April 15th several years ago, he told me he had just dropped his tax return in the mail, and was clearly sweating bullets. "I just hope I got it right," he said. Strange. Here was a bright young tax lawyer—a government employee with what I would have guessed was a fairly straightforward tax return: deductions for mortgage interest, charitable contributions, and student loan interest. Even so, he was worried whether he had filled out his return correctly. My reaction at the time was: "If he's nervous, what about the rest of us?"

Until we overhaul the system in a major way, whether that be a flat tax, VAT or some other approach, we should make it a priority to attack the present Code, reduce the complexity, and make it simpler for as many citizens as possible.

In recent years, I have introduced several tax simplification proposals (the current bill is H.R. 22) covering a variety of areas. We are currently reviewing those proposals to refine them, and then will reintroduce some of the proposals as stand-alone bills to focus better on the specific issues.

So, Mr. Speaker, in order to call attention to the simplification issue, the resolution I am introducing, as stated above, would require that tax legislation include a tax title in any tax measure for it to be considered by the House. The purpose is to focus attention on simplification each and every time we consider a tax measure, with the result that we accomplish some measure of simplification to the Internal Revenue Code.

I urge your support of this measure. It cannot hurt. It may just help in ways we are unable now to contemplate.

BRING CHARLES TAYLOR BEFORE
THE SPECIAL COURT IN SIERRA
LEONE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues a letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell that 28 members of Congress have signed asking that the United States act swiftly to ensure that Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia and now a fugitive from justice, is held accountable for his heinous crimes and brought before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. There should be no safe harbor for tyrants like Charles Taylor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2004.

Hon. COLIN POWELL,
Secretary of State,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY POWELL: We are writing to express deep concern that Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia and now a fugitive from justice, has not been brought before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Charles Taylor faces 17 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of international humanitarian law. Charles Taylor's time is up. We are asking that you make a concerted effort to see that he is brought before the Special Court.

The despotic rule of Charles Taylor in Sierra Leone, while president of Liberia, represents his tyrannical influence in fueling Sierra Leone's ten-year civil war. He is accused of providing financial support, military training, and other support and encouragement to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to destabilize Sierra Leone in order to gain access to her diamond wealth.

Charles Taylor also organized and ordered widespread and systematic attacks to terrorize the civilian population in Sierra Leone. Disturbing examples include abductions, sexual slavery of women, and children, large scale physical violence and unlawful killings, notably hacking off of limbs, facial and bodily mutilations, body carvings, gang rapes, and hacking and burning to death those whom he felt did not sufficiently support the RUF.

As you know, the three-year mandate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone expires June 30, 2005. Since its inception, the Special Court has been collecting and analyzing evidence against Charles Taylor. Just last week, the Special Court courthouse officially opened its doors.

Time is of the essence. Charles Taylor needs to be brought to justice before the three-year mandate expires. It is intolerable that Charles Taylor is living with impunity in the lap of luxury in Nigeria, with just about anything he needs at his disposal, including a cell phone. There is growing evidence that Charles Taylor continues to meddle in the political affairs of Liberia. He has expressed a desire to return to Liberia. We must not be blind to the fact that he has not lost his thirst for the political power he once had before his exile.

We have no doubt that you find Charles Taylor's brutal cycle of violence as abhorrent as we do. We urge you to act swiftly to ensure that Charles Taylor is held accountable for his actions. There should be no safe harbor for tyrants like Charles Taylor. We must act now.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf; Edward R. Royce; Joe Baca; Howard L. Berman; Robert A. Brady; John A. Culberson; Peter A. DeFazio; Jim DeMint; Vernon J. Ehlers; Lane Evans; Sam Farr; Trent Franks; Virgil H. Goode, Jr.; Michael M. Honda.

Patrick J. Kennedy; James R. Langevin; James P. McGovern; Bobby L. Rush; John Shimkus; Christopher H. Smith; Vic Snyder; Thomas G. Tancredo; Ellen O. Tauscher; Patrick J. Tiberi; James T. Walsh; Jerry Weller; Curt Weldon; Albert R. Wynn.

TRIBUTE TO VELMA M. WEBBER BOUCHARD ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Velma M. Webber Bouchard, who will be honored for her service to the cause of American working men and women with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Marquette, Michigan on April 17th.

Velma, who grew up in Luce County, began her outstanding service to workers of the U.P. and the Democratic Party in 1975. That was the year when she started her job at the Newberry Board of Water and Light and joined Local 2530, Council 55 (now Council 25) of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Her service in AFSCME includes a long list of leadership positions. She served as Local President for two years; Secretary-Treasurer for four years; Recording Secretary for three years; Delegate to the Eastern U.P. Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO for seven years and Vice-Chair of the U.P. AFSCME Political Action Committee.

Velma also traveled extensively through the region teaching Labor History and representation skills to AFSCME members. She served her local union in AFSCME Council level governance functions, periodically serving as a delegate from her local to the Council 55, 11 and 25 Annual Conventions, as well as being a delegate to the Michigan State AFL-CIO Conventions.

As a trade union leader, Velma spent time working to make her union even more effective by serving on the U.P. AFSCME Community Services Committee and by serving on the Union Women/Minorities Leadership Training Program Board during the 1980s.

Beyond her union, Velma's involvement in political activities is also a reflection of her nonstop efforts to protect and represent Michigan workers. Since 1988, she has served as Chair of the Luce County Democratic Party and served as its Vice-Chair before then. Velma has also been an Officer-At-Large of the Michigan Democratic Party for four years; was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1992; and has served as an alternate delegate to the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee. During the Blanchard Administration, Governor Blanchard called upon Velma to take several appointments, including the Controlled Substance Advisory Committee and the International Trade Board.

Despite all of the time devoted to organized labor and politics, Velma still found time for civic duty. She is a lifetime member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 74, serving as its President and District President. She has served as a member of the Michigan Selective Service Board No. 17 since 1985.

Velma retired from the Newberry Board of Water and Light in 1993 after 18 years. We cannot thank her enough for her endless energy and dedication fighting for the rights of Michigan workers.

I also want to acknowledge Joe King, Velma's good friend of many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in acknowledging Velma Webber Bouchard's lifetime of contributions to organized labor and her community, and in celebrating the accomplishments that have earned her the distinction of becoming an honored member of the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame.

THANKING JAMES JOYCE OF CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank outgoing Chicago Fire Commissioner James Joyce for his 39 years of noble service to the department and to wish him well in his retirement.

Commissioner Joyce enjoyed a remarkable rise through the ranks of the Chicago Fire Department before being appointed to the top post by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 1999. During his more than four years as commissioner, Commissioner Joyce spearheaded important changes to the department, including building new firehouses, replacing and updating firehouse equipment, and improving coordination with suburban fire departments. His tenure as Commissioner was also noteworthy for the respect he garnered from rank and file firefighters throughout the department.

His steady leadership also was apparent after the Sept. 11 attacks, when Commissioner Joyce committed the department to aiding disaster prevention efforts and oversaw changes in policies and procedures to protect the people of Chicago.

Commissioner Joyce was born in 1942 and was educated at Chicago State University. He received his master's degree in public administration from Governor's State University.

Commissioner Joyce began his career within the Chicago Fire Department as a firefighter assigned to Truck 4 in Chinatown in 1965. After serving as engineer, lieutenant and captain he was promoted to battalion chief in 1979. Later his administrative posts included District Chief and Deputy Fire Commissioner.

The Joyce family's commitment to firefighting and to protecting the lives of Chicago's citizens began long before the Commissioner joined the force. Commissioner Joyce is a third-generation Chicago firefighter, whose maternal grandfather, father and brother all served. His grandfather gave the ultimate sacrifice, dying as a result of battling a 1934 blaze at the old Chicago Stockyards.

Commissioner Joyce and his wife Janet reside in St. John Fisher Parish on Chicago's South Side and are the parents of four children. I wish Commissioner Joyce the best as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I join in all of Chicago in thanking James Joyce for his long record of achievement in serving our city. His dedication and passion will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO TOM CATLETT

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, our county courts are a key component of the example America sets for the rest of the world; but it is only as admirable as the men and women who serve within it. I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to a proud servant of the Monroe County Court, Tom Catlett, for the positive mark he has left on Monroe County and the courthouse he has dedicated his life to serving.