

time of remembrance where we pay tribute to the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives to protect the freedoms we hold so very dear.

I believe that it is especially fitting at this time to share a poem written by my constituent, Mr. Cordell A. Dickey of Roanoke, Virginia. Mr. Dickey is a veteran of World War II where his unit was part of the division that invaded Guadalcanal on August 8, 1942. The poem was written in the Southwest Pacific in 1943 to honor a fallen friend, Hiram DiAlfordi, who was killed in New Caledonia in 1942.

The commemoration of Memorial Day will likely be a trying time filled with vivid memories of the son or daughter, husband or wife, mom or dad who will never come home. It is the hope of Mr. Dickey that his poem will bring comfort to the family of those who sacrificed for a cause greater than one's self.

LOST VIGILANCE

(By Cordell A. Dickey)

Twas here I stepped, here I fell, and here
On this far, unfriendly shore,
A dream was lost and shattered forever:
Leaving only fragments scattered on the
sands.

To you who loved my life:
Whose heart knew pain when earth's cold
bosom

Embraced and held me fast;
I would not have you grieve too much!
Sing no more sad songs for me . . .

Wipe away your last falling tear.
For when I quietly slipped into the void,
To keep with destiny my final rendezvous;
I did not fear to face Infinity,
Or plunge into a dark abyss.

To you who still have life:
Whose shattered spirit needs a healing balm
To make you whole again;
I would that you should know much joy;
Find new faith and hope again!

This above all:
Learn to laugh and sing again . . .
The world is filled with beauty.

COSPONSORSHIP OF HOMEOWNER-
SHIP TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, the low-income housing tax credit created by Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, commonly known as the rental credit, is responsible for the production of more than one million affordable housing units valued at over \$100 billion since 1987. Because of its tremendous success, the Bush administration and a bipartisan group of Members have proposed the creation of a new credit modeled on the rental credit and targeted at creating affordable housing for purchase by low- and moderate-income families. Concerns have been raised, however, that a homeownership credit, not properly crafted, could have unintended, negative consequences on the highly successful rental credit and on the very low-income Americans who benefit from the housing produced by it.

Until today, these concerns have led me to withhold my support from H.R. 839, the "Renewing the Dream Tax Credit Act," which was introduced early last year by the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN and the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN. I have decided,

however, that despite my continued reservations, I will add my name as a cosponsor today because the goal of increasing affordable homeownership opportunities is one I strongly support and a well-developed tax incentive could play an important part in that effort. Of course, I will work to ensure that the matters detailed below are considered carefully as the bill moves forward in Congress.

My prime concern is that the legislation when enacted not adversely affect the existing rental credit. How might this happen? Put simply, in the event that rental credits are less attractive than homeownership credits to equity investors, pricing for rental credits may fall and the program may be less effective in meeting the demand for high quality, affordable housing.

In addition, it is worth emphasizing that the affordable homeownership tax credit should be utilized in communities where a new subsidy is clearly needed to enable homeownership. In some parts of the country, the supply of new subsidized homes resulting from the credit's creation may endanger the economics of existing multifamily rental properties and cause the value of homes presently owned by low- and moderate-income households—the successful result of current affordable housing programs—to fall. We must be exceptionally wary of this possibility.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, despite the reservations I have raised that deserve continued analysis and deliberation, I am pleased today to add my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 839. Increasing affordable homeownership opportunities for my constituents and families across America has long been a top priority for me and this proposal can certainly help us work toward that goal.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, while I inadvertently missed the final vote on H.R. 3722, Roll Call Vote #182, I would have voted in favor of the resolution.

The Medicare and Prescription Drug Reform bill last year appropriated \$1 billion over four years to pay state and local health facilities for the costs they incur in treating illegal aliens. Without denying health care to anyone appearing in the emergency room for treatment, H.R. 3722 would have required that local hospitals turn over information to the Department of Homeland Security about the illegal aliens they treat, as a condition of being reimbursed under the new program.

If hospitals chose not to do so, they would still be free to continue treating undocumented aliens. They simply wouldn't receive payment for these services.

Although H.R. 3722 was not approved, as a member of the House Immigration Reform Caucus, I will continue to work with others in Congress toward meaningful solutions to curb the trend of illegal migration to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. HABUSH

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Robert L. Habush. On May 24, 2004, the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee will bestow upon Mr. Habush the 2004 Community Service Human Relations Award at the Pfister Hotel. The Community Service Human Relations Award honors individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership. Mr. Habush has shown through his significant contributions to Wisconsin and the law that he is richly deserving of this award.

As anyone in Wisconsin can tell you, Mr. Habush has achieved a high level of professional success. He has practiced law for forty two years as a litigator, principally for plaintiffs, and over the years has been involved in some of the most significant cases in Wisconsin, as well as the development of the law. His law firm, Habush Habush & Rottier S.C., is well known in Wisconsin with its ten offices throughout the state.

Mr. Habush is widely admired for his philanthropy, including his strong commitment to the two law schools in Wisconsin. He has established the Robert L. Habush Bascom Professorship in Trial Advocacy and the Robert L. Habush Moot Court Advocacy Fund at the University of Wisconsin Law School. At Marquette Law School, he has funded a scholarship and a gift to create the Howard Eisenberg Memorial Hall.

Mr. Habush has also been honored by serving as President of the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers and President of The Association of Trial Lawyers of America. In 2001, he was named by the National Law Journal as one of the top ten litigators in the United States. In 2002, he received The Association of Trial Lawyers of America's highest award, The Champion of Justice. Mr. Habush has also been named as one of the top Wisconsin leaders in the law, by the Wisconsin Law Review. In honor of Mr. Habush's esteemed work, The Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers has named its Trial Lawyer of the Year award after him, as well as The Association of Trial Lawyers of America naming their endowment in his honor.

Today, I join the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee in offering my sincere congratulations for receiving the 2004 Community Service Human Relations Award. Robert Habush is one of Wisconsin's best and I am proud to recognize him today.

TRIBUTE TO BOB ERICKSON

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and neighbor, Bob Erickson, and to recognize him on the occasion of his retirement from the position of City Administrator for the city of Lakeville, Minnesota.

Over the past 44 years, Bob Erickson has compiled a distinguished record of public service. He has been honored by such groups as

the Dakota Electric Association for his devotion to the people of Minnesota.

During his 15-year tenure as City Administrator, Bob helped transform a sleepy bedroom community into a thriving suburb with thousands of new jobs and thousands of new homes. Lakeville has benefited from his leadership and we owe him our gratitude.

Bob Erickson will be remembered for his undivided devotion to his community and his tireless work to ensure the citizens of Lakeville receive the best possible services from their city government.

The city of Lakeville thanks you, Bob, and so do I.

PERMANENT EXTENSION OF 10-PERCENT INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE BRACKET

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of making permanent the 10% tax bracket for low-income families. I am supporting the Tanner substitute because it, unlike the underlying bill, is paid for and does not drive our country deeper into debt.

The Tanner substitute, like H.R. 4275, makes permanent the change in our lowest tax bracket from 15% to 10%, and exempts from taxation the first \$7,000 for single taxpayers and \$14,000 for married couples. The Tanner substitute, however, requires that the funds needed to pay the tax cut do not come from Social Security and Medicare trust funds. Passing the Tanner substitute would help low-income families protect Social Security and Medicare while also helping eliminate the need to borrow from foreign banks to fund the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, today the national debt is the largest in history. Americans now collectively owe more than \$7 trillion. That is \$24,304 for every man, woman, and child. We have borrowed an additional \$280 billion so far this year. The Majority would now like to borrow another \$218 billion with the passage of this bill.

Here we have another tax cut that is not being paid for, even as the Bush Administration and the leadership of this Congress spend more than the American government has ever spent on homeland security and on all the other expenses of running the government—especially the huge costs of the war in, and occupation of, Iraq. The resultant borrowing places the burden of repaying our debts on our children.

I want the people of this country to realize that, right now, we owe collectively, in hard money, about \$4 trillion to foreign countries. We owe Japan \$607 billion; China (including Hong Kong) \$205 billion; the U.K. \$137 billion; Taiwan, \$50 billion; Germany, \$45 billion; OPEC countries, \$43 billion; Switzerland, \$41 billion; Korea, \$37 billion; Mexico, \$32 billion; Luxembourg, \$26 billion; Canada, \$25 billion—the list goes on and on.

More tax cuts without offsets will not only jeopardize critical public services now, but they will also hurt Americans well into the future. Massive deficits now create large debt

and will create high interest payments that will crowd out spending on public investments for future generations. Moreover, these deep deficits threaten to increase interest rates in the future—making it harder for Americans to buy homes and afford higher education and making it harder for businesses to raise capital.

The President is pretending that we can have war without sacrifice. Eventually, someone has to pay. I believe Chairman Greenspan's recent comments are appropriate: "Our fiscal prospects are, in my judgment, a significant obstacle to long-term stability because the budget deficit is not readily subject to correction by market forces that stabilize other imbalances. The free lunch has still to be invented."

Now, we, all of us Americans, have to pay interest on the debt. We are literally squandering the wealth of this country by not paying for our tax cuts. The underlying bill is a good idea—keeping the lowest tax bracket at 10% helps all taxpayers equally. Unfortunately, by not paying for the tax cut, we are contributing to a far greater problem—the breathtaking fiscal irresponsibility that is going on here in this town.

A TRIBUTE TO ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to commend the millions of Asian Americans who have contributed so much to make this a great nation. I am fortunate to have the great privilege to represent the ethnically diverse 12th Congressional District of California that has one of the largest populations of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States and the largest population of Filipinos outside of the Philippines.

This month we celebrate the many Asian and Pacific Islander cultures that enrich our community. The Asian Pacific American community is quite diverse and includes some two-dozen distinct ethnic groups who came to this country from around the world. Their diverse cultures come together under a common umbrella and their presence in my community adds a wonderfully distinct flavor. I would be remiss to selfishly consider the impact on San Francisco and San Mateo alone, because the nation as a whole have benefited from the assimilation of the Asian Pacific American population.

We know the architecture of I. M. Pei and Maya Lin, we see the reporting of Connie Chung and Ann Curry, we listen to the music of Yo Yo Ma, we watch the movies of Lucy Liu and Pat Morita, we cheer Kristi Yamaguchi and Greg Louganis at the Olympics.

Our lives have been made easier with companies like Yahoo! Inc. and Computer Associates, founded by Jerry Yang and Charles Wang, respectively. George Artani wanted to make a better stereo system and succeeded when he founded, now the most popular electronics producer, Kenwood. Military life has also proven conducive to many in the community, and many have excelled. Major General Antonio Taguba exposed the Abu Ghraib pris-

on abuse scandal, and General Eric K. Shinseki became the Chief of Staff for the Army in 1999.

The advanced strides can be measured in the heights reached by the public officials. In government we depend on the leaders like San Francisco Supervisor Fiona Ma, our distinguished colleagues in the Senate, DANIEL INOUE and DANIEL AKAKA, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, and here in the House of Representatives, my good friends from California, ROBERT MATSUI and MIKE HONDA. Sec. Mineta also represented California for 20 years before becoming the first Asian American to be appointed to a cabinet-level position when he was appointed Secretary of Commerce by President Clinton.

Our appreciation of their culture has come full circle. Today we celebrate, but in the not too distant past, racist and nativist sentiments met the newest immigrants with severe prejudice. Many who came faced strict quotas and unfair immigration laws, and suffered horrible prejudice and barbarous discrimination.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, we interned 114,000 persons of Japanese descent, whether or not they were citizens. In San Francisco, 7,800 Japanese Americans were rounded up, taken to the Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno and housed in the stables. "Relocation Camps" were built, but as President Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes described them, they were nothing more than concentration camps.

Although interned by their country, many Japanese heroes fought for the freedom that their government took from them. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was a regiment made up of persons of Japanese descent from the continental U.S. and Hawaii. The unit became the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. history. The Honorable DANIEL INOUE earned the Medal of Honor fighting for the 442nd.

The Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934 gave the Philippines its independence, but reclassified Filipinos as aliens rather than citizens, and reduced the amount of people who could legally immigrate to 50 per year. President Roosevelt used the Tydings-McDuffie Act to conscript the Filipino army into service against Japan. After fighting so courageously for our government, in 1946 Congress denied them the benefits that all other veterans received, especially disabled veterans. Today I am trying to correct this injustice and have cosponsored H.R. 664 to give Filipino Americans residing as a legal alien, or citizens of the U.S. the same health and pension benefits that all other veterans of World War II receive.

Since 1977, the month of May has been set aside to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This is the time that we can renew our focus on the problems that face the Asian Pacific American community, problems like affordable housing, immigration concerns, and racial profiling, and we can celebrate the accomplishments of the community.

I would like to thank my colleague Mr. MIKE HONDA for his leadership on the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and on H.R. 56, supporting the goals of the Japanese American, German American and Italian American communities in recognizing of a National Day of Remembrance, of which I am also a cosponsor.

Their vibrant community and array of perspectives have been firmly woven into the fabric of America. I am extremely proud to serve