

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, after five years of setting records for weak job creation, the President is giving us a rosy outlook for our economy. What he fails to mention in his economic pep talks is the elephant sitting in the room—this administration continues to set record debts and deficits, long-term, structural problems that will bog us down for generations to come.

What is our response as a Congress to this fiscal mess? A bill that would cost \$81 billion over 10 years. A bill that would pile on to the deficit that is projected to be \$3.5 trillion over 10 years. I suppose the thinking is compared to \$3.5 trillion, what's another \$81 billion? Only in Washington.

What's worse, the middle class—the foundation of our Nation and our economy will be largely ignored by the bill before us. It's bad enough that working Americans have already been left behind in our economic recovery.

But this bill will essentially raise taxes on 17 million American middle-class families by failing to protect them from the Alternative Minimum Tax. Make no mistake, they will not get real protection from yesterday's fig-leaf AMT bill, and they will get nothing from the bill before us today.

We are considering more of the same. More debt, more deficits, more working Americans who are ignored.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill and "yes" on the sensible Rangel substitute, which will allow us to really fix the AMT, help the middle class and help working Americans.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND J. MAPA

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2006, Raymond J. Mapa, Senior Property Manager of the Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, will retire after an extraordinary 41-year career in federal service. Ray epitomizes professionalism, community outreach and the American Dream.

Ray came to San Francisco from the Philippines at a young age, and was naturalized at the Federal Building and Courthouse he would later manage.

Ray attended the University of San Francisco and, in 1964, began his civil service career with the U.S. Post Office Department. After one year the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Service selected him for a "trainee" program in Inventory Management. Ultimately, Ray advanced to the position of Director of the Inventory Management Division.

After holding several positions in the Federal Supply Service, Ray moved to the field of

property management. He left a rich legacy. Managing the Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, particularly in the post-September 11 era, presents significant challenges. Ray's focus on building security led to close cooperation with the U.S. Marshals Service, the Department of Homeland Security and local law enforcement. This collaboration contributes to the safety of all building tenants and visitors.

As tenants of the Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, my staff and I appreciate Ray's steadfast commitment to customer service. He instilled these high standards in his employees and it has resulted in a superior level of customer satisfaction.

As Ray's career draws to a close, I wish him, his wife Emma, and his children Christopher, Penny, Renee and Angela—the best life has to offer. Finally, to Raymond's grandchildren, Raymond and Emma, and his future grandchildren, I offer my wishes for the brightest of futures, guided by the stars of your grandfather's great accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Lowell High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. On Saturday, November 26, 2005, the Lowell High School Football Team won the Class 4A State Championship game.

The people of Lowell, as well as the entire Northwest Indiana community, can be proud of the following members of the football team: Michael Kreczmer, Jeffrey Clemens, Zach Porras, Jacob Gill, Zachary Zolmer, Scott Gray, James Ritter, John Black, Lukas Palmer, Jonathan Cap, Joshua Kuiper, Christopher Jacobson, Max Znika IV, Michael Dowling, Christopher Briggs, Christopher Lampa, Johnny Underwood, Joshua Lofrano, Chad Small, Mark Puskar, Steffan Peck, Christopher Thompson, Dean Frigo, Jeffrey Barker, Timothy Lukasik, Matthew Garton, Joseph Carlson, Daniel Remboski, Paul Demro, Ethan Winel, Tyler Overdorf, Eugene Wentworth, Kaleb Layman, David Lang, Anthony Hurst, Ryan King, Trenton Keelen, Nicholas Traficanti, Andrew Steuer, Chris Caputo, Matthew Heabel, Brandon Werblous, Jed Travis, Joshua Hayden, Robert Becker, Jr., Jon Sgouroudis, Mark Lunsford, Michael Staniewicz, Randy Layman, Eric McGee, Joe Wojcik, Justin Jackson, Gerald Jackson, Ben Rigby, Eric Roadruck, Dustin Warren, Robert Stluka, Mina Jae Park, Manager Sagan Roney, and Manager Lindsay Rothas.

In addition, I would like to recognize the other members of the Lowell State Championship Team: Athletic Trainer Bobby Wong; Student Trainers Ashley Barragan, Jessica Besaw, Nicole Carlson, Courtney DuBord, Nicole Ford, Samantha Norfleet, Krystal Pigg, and Stephanie Revere; the Varsity Cheerleaders, Junior Varsity Cheerleaders, and their coaches—Cindi Blandford, Linda Glaze, Druanne Smith, and Don Bales. The team's

success is also due to the outstanding ability and leadership of its teachers and coaches. In particular, Kirk Kennedy, Jim Carlson, Jim Kiechle, Keith Kilmer, Brad Stewart, Trent Staggs and Ed Miracle should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches. Additionally, Lowell Principal James Koger and Assistant Principals Mike Chelap and Ben Ingram should be recognized for their strong support of the football team. The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication. Their effort, determined preparation, and rigorous approach have made them the best in the state. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their school, and their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Lowell High School Football Team for their commitment to excellence, as well as to the faculty members who have instilled in their students the desire to succeed. I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders, and I look forward to their future achievements as they continue to rise to the top!

THREE MONTH EXTENSION OF THE PATRIOT ACT

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to extend the PATRIOT Act for three months so that conferees may go back to the bargaining table and produce a conference report that is truly bipartisan and bicameral.

The conference report scheduled for debate this week completely ignores the many concerns expressed by Democrats and Republicans, civil libertarians both left and right, prosecutors and defenders, librarians, gun owners and religious groups. It is in fact facing a bipartisan filibuster in the Senate.

That is why Senator LEAHY and I are introducing a 3-month extension of the PATRIOT Act. It will allow the government uninterrupted use of these authorities until the Congress can agree on reasonable checks and balances that will make sure the war on terror doesn't become a war against innocent Americans.

HONORING TARA HALL VIELE FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 14

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tara Hall Viele, a resident of Chautauqua County for her service to the fourteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Tara has had the opportunity to serve as a strong member of the legislature and an active member of the community.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Tara traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 14.

Tara is one of those people that leave a huge impact on her community. For many years her efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. Her face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the legislature. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work Tara did during her tenure.

A true testimony to Tara can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives she touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. In the future Tara will continue to better Chautauqua County as she raises her two sons and provides a strong education to her students at Jefferson Middle School.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Tara is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT W.  
LAZAR

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Robert W. Lazar, a man who has made tremendous contributions for small businesses throughout the state of New York, and our nation. Mr. Lazar has graciously served our business community through the New York Business Development Corporation (NYBDC) for the past 35 years.

Mr. Lazar carries with him an extensive and impressive record of helping small businesses across the state of New York. He began his service with the NYBD in 1971, and since that time he has successfully operated in a number of roles within the organization. Since 1987, Mr. Lazar has served as the President and CEO and has been credited with leading his company to unprecedented growth.

With over 1.7 million small businesses in New York, the NYBDC serves a vital role in our state by assisting these businesses in obtaining the financial assistance they so desperately need to start and grow an enterprise. In addition, NYBC also provides much needed credit opportunities to the increasing number of minority and women-owned firms—many of which have difficulty in accessing these types of options elsewhere.

The contributions he has made to our state's small businesses during his tenure at NYBDC have been endless. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Lazar in both my capacity as a Member representing Brooklyn, and as the Ranking Democrat on the House Small Business Committee. Some of my fondest memories over the past years include visiting small business owners together, hearing about the aspirations, dreams, and challenges our local businesses are facing, and working to help meet their needs. Small busi-

nesses throughout New York have been fortunate to have such a dedicated, and successful, advocate as Bob working to ensure firms have access to capital and opportunity—and we are lucky that his efforts on behalf of small businesses will continue forward.

Throughout the years, Mr. Lazar has created a long list of accomplishments and has received numerous awards for his services. Mr. Lazar has been a steadfast advocate for small business legislation both in New York and Washington. Because of his efforts, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504 lending program, one of the most widely used small business loan programs, is now a more viable source of small business lending for entrepreneurs throughout the nation. In addition, as the President of NYBDC, he has played a key role in helping to expand the use of SBA programs, and in contributing to the development of new loan programs through public-private partnerships. These accomplishments benefited not only New York small businesses—but also entrepreneurs nationwide.

In 2000, he was recognized as the "Small Business Advocate of the Year" in the state of New York by the Empire State Development Corporation. He was named as "Entrepreneur of the Year Award" in 2004 by Capital District Business Review, and has been honored with several leadership awards over the past few years. The truth is that Bob could have been recognized as "Small Business Advocate of the Year" every year.

He has served New York's small businesses with tireless dedication, effort and success. The doors he has opened for women and minority business owners, and the assistance Mr. Lazar has granted to aspiring entrepreneurs across the state have been an invaluable asset—and these achievements have set the path for the future small business owners of New York. I know that Bob's contributions to entrepreneurs will not end with his retirement—and that small businesses in New York and across the nation will continue to benefit from his dedication.

I hope that the U.S. House of Representatives will join me today in recognizing Mr. Robert Lazar on his retirement—and in honoring and thanking him for his work and dedication to small businesses in both New York, and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO MATT CUNNINGHAM

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on December 3, 2005 at the annual Firefighter Holiday Dance & Awards in Anderson, Indiana, firefighter Matt Cunningham was named Anderson's Firefighter of the Year. Mr. Cunningham, thirty years old and a lifelong resident of Anderson, was honored with this award because of his dedicated service to the community and outstanding record within the Anderson Fire Department and Engine Co. 6. The award, a medallion for his dress uniform, was presented by the Evening Exchange Club of Anderson.

Mr. Cunningham exemplifies all that is good with this Nation's local first responders. During this year alone, Mr. Cunningham has assisted with or single-handedly pulled four individuals

from burning structures. His courage, selflessness and devotion are to be commended and serve as an example to us all.

Only in his third-year of firefighting, Mr. Cunningham clearly has found his calling. At the awards ceremony he stated that firefighting "was something I stumbled into and I'm elated I did." He continued, "I love being in Anderson. I love it. The fire department in Anderson stays busy."

Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to hear such enthusiasm. Matt Cunningham serves his community as a firefighter of the highest caliber, and I am proud today to honor and recognize him for being named Firefighter of the Year in Anderson, Indiana.

HONORING TONY CLARK ON THE  
COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions Tony Clark has made while interning in my Washington, D.C., office. Tony has been a wonderful addition to the office and has performed many great services to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Tony now must return to Tennessee for his final semester at Vanderbilt University. In May, he will graduate with a degree in Technology and Public Policy Studies. Tony has made the Dean's List every semester, an accomplishment that comes as no surprise to me after witnessing the dedication that goes into every task he undertakes.

During his internship, Tony has been a tremendous help to me and my staff as he has assisted us in various projects. He has addressed constituent concerns, created booklets to let teachers know about educational resources available from federal agencies and endeared himself to visitors as he guided them through the U.S. Capitol.

I hope Tony has enjoyed his internship as much as my staff and I have appreciated his hard work and eager attitude. I wish him all the best in the future.

AKALI LEADERSHIP BETRAYS  
SIKH NATION

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on November 17, leaders of the Akali Dal, the predominant Sikh party, walked out of a seminar in Lahore after Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, Preside: of the Council of Khalistan, predicted that India will break up. The Akali leaders said "We came to unite, not to divide India."

In front of an audience of about 1,500 people, Dr. Aulakh predicted that Kashmir will soon be free and India will break into five or six separate countries, including Khalistan. Former Home Minister L.K. Advani, President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, has said that "if Kashmir goes, India goes." Steve Forbes of Forbes magazine predicted in his magazine