

She has been a great asset to Southern Nevada and deserves recognition for her valuable efforts.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297,
TAX INCREASE PREVENTION
AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the tax reconciliation conference report, H.R. 4297, that will cost \$70 billion over 10 years and provides little to no tax relief for working American families. Today is yet another missed opportunity by the Republican-controlled Congress to provide real tax relief to working families. For example, this bill would extend the capital gains and dividends tax cut set to expire in 2008 for an additional 2 years through 2010. While on the other hand, the bill would only provide a 1-year extension in relief for the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) that affects an estimated 15 million middle-class taxpayers and already expired in 2005.

Originally intended to ensure the wealthy taxpayers paid their fair share, the AMT has become a tax on the middle-class. Without adjustments for inflation like the federal income tax, the AMT targets a growing number of people each year. Those most affected by the AMT are taxpayers in States like my home State of New York, with high property taxes, high local and state income taxes, and high sales taxes. These taxpayers are middle-class families. Instead of taking this opportunity to pass real AMT reform, the House Republicans have chosen to barely patch this problem without providing any real relief for working families.

Making matters worse, this conference agreement also drops three provisions in the Senate bill that would have rolled back nearly \$5.4 billion over 10 years in unneeded tax breaks and loopholes for the oil industry. This is truly unbelievable when we see oil companies earning record profits and consumer paying record prices.

I wish this Congress could get their priorities straight and pass real AMT reform and provide leadership for true fiscal responsibility.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAMP OUT
HUNGER, THE ANNUAL FOOD
DRIVE ORGANIZED BY THE NA-
TIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LET-
TER CARRIERS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Association of Letter Carriers as they prepare to stage their fourteenth annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive this Saturday. Letter carriers in over 10,000 cities and towns will participate in this effort, the largest one-day food drive in the United States.

In the Fourth Congressional District, the National Association of Letter Carriers Pioneer Branch 2 partners with the Hunger Task Force to ensure that all food collected gets distributed quickly, fairly and safely. Last year's effort netted over 1.29 million pounds of food, and solicited the participation of 800 volunteers. Thousands of families contributed food, and letter carriers throughout the Milwaukee area worked tirelessly to make the event a success. As a result, this annual food drive is a true community effort that enables all of us to serve our neighbors. I have no doubt this year's event will meet or exceed last year's impressive achievements, and thousands of Milwaukeeans will have access to food throughout the summer as a result.

It is simply unconscionable that so many Americans have insufficient food to meet their needs. Stamp Out Hunger is a true testament to the strength of our community and our commitment to ensuring the security of our most vulnerable residents. I am honored to express my gratitude to the Hunger Task Force, NALC Pioneer Branch 2, and the constituents of the Fourth Congressional District who give to this year's Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL EI-
LEEN COLLINS ON HER RETIRE-
MENT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to honor the achievements of Colonel Eileen Collins, an inspirational member of the aerospace community. Last week, she announced her decision to retire from NASA, where her passion for discovery and her leadership skills will be greatly missed.

Building on a childhood love for airplanes and space, Col. Collins studied mathematics and science, earning her associate degree from Corning Community College in 1976, her bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in 1978, her master of science degree from Stanford University in 1986, and her master of arts degree from Webster University in 1989.

Col. Collins' career included many firsts: she was the first woman to enter Air Force pilot training straight from college, the first woman to pilot a space shuttle, and the first woman to serve as commander for a space shuttle mission. She also served her country as an Air Force pilot and as a mathematics teacher at the Air Force Academy. Her last space flight took place during the summer of 2005 when she commanded the STS-114 space shuttle mission, the first mission following the 2003 Columbia space shuttle disaster. As we've all come to expect, she carried out her duties on this mission with distinction. In sum, as noted by the Colorado Springs Gazette referred to her nearly 30-year career as an "era" in spaceflight. And I think that that is a truly fitting description of her legacy.

I would like to include the following article with more details about Col. Collins' extraordinary work. The progress she made for both her gender and her country are admirable.

[From the Colorado Springs Gazette, May 8, 2006]

HAPPY (CON)TRAILS TO COLLINS

For some reason, perhaps buried deep in the subconscious, people love to mark events in their lives. The media are especially fond of memorializing moments we think should be important to readers and viewers. Last week, when Eileen Collins announced her retirement from NASA, it truly marked the end of an era in spaceflight. She was an astronaut who represented the pioneering spirit that drove mankind to explore space.

From an early age, she longed to fly airplanes and dreamed of space travel. One biography pointed out that her parents used to take her to the airport to watch planes land and take off. She worked hard in school and earned multiple degrees in mathematics and space-related subjects. After college, her career literally took off.

She was among the first women to go directly from college to Air Force pilot training. She spent several years flying various aircraft for Uncle Sam and continued her education as a student at the Air Force Institute of Technology. From 1986-1989 she taught mathematics and was an instructor pilot at the Air Force Academy.

Tapped by NASA for astronaut training while she was attending the Air Force's test pilot school in 1990, she later became the first woman selected for shuttle pilot training, was the first woman pilot of the space shuttle and the first woman commander of a space shuttle mission. She retired from the Air Force in January 2005 and will leave her NASA duties later this month.

Collins has had a career of which anyone could be proud and many can only dream of. We wish her blue skies and tailwinds as she pursues other interests in the aerospace industry.

TRIBUTE TO TOYOTA MOTOR
MANUFACTURING

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia. While Toyota is considered leader in the "new American auto industry," this anniversary clearly demonstrates that Toyota is well established in the United States. With a 10-year history and West Virginia investment rapidly approaching the \$1 billion mark, Toyota has been contributing to the U.S. and local economies for a long time—hopefully with more to come.

The Buffalo plant, which produces four-cylinder engines for Corolla, Matrix, and Pontiac Vibe; V6 engines for the Sienna and Lexus RX 330; and automatic transmissions for North American-built Camry, Solara, Lexus RX 330 and Sienna, currently provides quality jobs for over 1,000 team members. Employment is projected to grow to 1,150 when the current transmission plant is expanded.

As a testament to the Mountain State's workforce, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia has been named four times the "Most Productive Engine Plant in North America" and has earned a global reputation for producing high quality engines and transmissions.

Importantly, the jobs Toyota has created in the Second Congressional District have not come at the expense of our environment. The