

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL DAVID WISECARVER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lieutenant Colonel David Wisecarver, a native of Kansas City, Missouri. On June 24th, 2006, Lieutenant Colonel Wisecarver will receive a promotion to the rank of Colonel in the United States Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Wisecarver enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1981 and completed Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training, and served in the 190th Transportation Company as a CH-47 mechanic and crew chief before entering the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He was then commissioned as an Infantry officer from Northwest Missouri State University in 1985. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology and a Master of Arts Degree in Business Management from Touro University.

After posts in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, and finally in Savannah, Georgia, Lieutenant Colonel Wisecarver participated in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti in 1994. He completed Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and was assigned as the Executive Officer to the Director of Officer Personnel Management System, Task Force XXI in Washington, DC. His next assignment was back to the 101st Airborne Division, where he served in Operation Desert Focus, in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in 1999. The Lieutenant Colonel's last assignment was Task Force 2, Senior Observer/Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana, where he trained twenty-one Battalion Combat Teams deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. His upcoming assignment will be to Rawalpindi, Pakistan, to attend the National Defense College for a year.

He is highly decorated and has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, The National Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Aircrewman's Badge, the U.S. Army Ranger Tab, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, and the Air Assault Badge, among others.

Lieutenant Colonel Wisecarver has been married for eighteen years to the former Dianna K. Huntley of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They have two young children, Samantha and Matthew.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel David Wisecarver as he assumes the new responsibilities of the rank of Colonel. Over the years, he has served the United States with dignity and courage and I am proud to be able to represent him in the United States Congress.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-
OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4843, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006.

As a cosponsor of this bill, I would like to thank my colleagues in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for expediting its consideration in committee and for their strong bipartisan support.

H.R. 4843 would raise disability compensation for veterans and dependency and indemnity compensation for their survivors by 2.2 percent beginning December 1, 2006. It would also increase benefits for spouses with children under 18 who recently experienced the death of a husband or wife due to military service.

Rising medical expenses coupled with disabilities generate some of the most burdensome financial situations veterans face. El Paso, TX, is home to approximately 60,000 veterans, many of whom depend on government compensation to sustain them as well as of their families. Increasing rates for veterans' compensation is an important part of recognizing and repaying veterans after they so courageously risked their lives in service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's veterans and their dependents deserve our utmost appreciation for their service to our country. I ask all my colleague to join me in voting favorably on H.R. 4843.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5638, PERMANENT ES-
TATE TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5638, the latest deficit busting tax giveaway from this Republican-controlled House. This enormous Republican tax giveaway completely ignores the real economic needs faced by the 99 percent of American citizens who work hard, pay their taxes and receive zero benefit from this bill. Instead, the priority of this Republican Congress is providing special handouts to estates with assets worth tens and hundreds of millions of dollars—America's economic elite—and then have these tax cuts for the privileged paid for by middle class families.

This legislation should be called the "Add Debt on America Tax Giveaway Act" since

this bill will have the effect of adding nearly \$800 billion to the national debt—10 percent of the total current debt—over the next 10 years. The cost of Republicans cutting and running from common sense and fiscal responsibility is that 99 percent of Americans will be forced to pay for the debt created by this nearly \$800 billion tax cut for the super-rich.

Less than 1 month ago this Congress passed a tax bill providing capital gains and dividend tax cuts that primarily benefit families making over \$1 million a year. Now Republican leaders are giving away nearly \$800 billion in tax cuts for the 7,500 wealthiest families in our country, including an estimated 75 who live in Minnesota. Estates valued at over \$20 million account for 43 percent of the value of this legislation and will receive an average tax break of \$5.6 million. This so-called virtual elimination of the estate tax is an attack on the middle class and an abandonment of equity or fairness in taxation.

The Bush administration and Republicans in Congress are addicted to tax cuts that bust our Federal budget and add trillions of dollars to the national debt. Since 2001, Republicans have taken a \$5.6 trillion Federal budget surplus left by President Clinton and turned it into a \$3.2 trillion deficit. Republicans in Congress have raised the debt limit four times—for a total of \$3 trillion—and our Nation now faces a national debt approaching \$9 trillion. The answer to this fiscal disaster is not cut-and-run tax policies that ignore the needs of 99 percent of American citizens. The response from this Congress should be to enforce fiscal discipline—including a restoration of pay-as-you-go rules to balance the budget. It is time to return the focus of Congress on to the real priorities of middle class American families who are being squeezed at the gas pump, at the grocery store, paying college tuition and paying for skyrocketing health care costs.

During the last 8 years, special interest lobbyists for the 7,500 wealthy estates have been paid \$600,000 a year to push the elimination of the estate tax Congress. These lobbyists have spun the myth that the estate tax hurts small businesses and family farms. However, the New York Times searched for a farmer hit by the estate tax but failed to find a single farm lost because of the estate tax—not on single family farm in all of the United States that needed to be protected because this tax giveaway is not about farmers or small business owners, but our Nation's most privileged millionaires and billionaires.

Today, middle class families are being hurt by Republican cut-and-run policies that cater to the super-wealthy who hire lobbyists to get Congress to pass legislation—like H.R. 5638—that will protect their assets tax-free by passing their tax burden on to hard working families. Students struggling to afford college received a \$12 billion cut to student aid, families cannot afford health insurance after Republicans have made deep cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, and our senior citizens continue to worry about access to affordable prescription drugs since this Congress passed a law

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to guarantee profits for pharmaceutical companies and HMOs at taxpayer expense. And all Americans will be affected by the rising interest rates caused by our out-of-control Federal deficit.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is fiscally irresponsible, completely unnecessary and threatens America's fiscal security, as well as our national security. President Bush's fiscal year 2007 budget calls for \$247 billion in interest payments on our national debt. This is \$247 billion not going to educate our children or keep America secure, but instead is going to wealthy investors and foreign governments that have purchased our Nation's debt. Now, this Republican Congress is adding almost \$80 billion more on the national debt, adding to the federal budget deficit and our Nation's fiscal insecurity. This is an irresponsible and dangerous piece of legislation that makes America less secure. I urge my colleagues to reject this latest Republican cut-and-run tax giveaway and focus on the needs of American families.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN
ANGUS ASSOCIATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the American Angus Association, based in St. Joseph, Missouri. This month will mark the 50th anniversary of the American Angus Association's move to St. Joseph from Chicago in 1956.

The American Angus Association is a member-based not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1883. The Association maintains ancestral records and performance information on purebred Angus cattle in the United States, as well offers a variety of programs and services to over 34,000 members across the nation. All of these programs are managed by a very hardworking and dedicated staff.

In the 50 years since moving to St. Joseph, the Association and its entities have grown to employ nearly 200 people. That growth has seen the expansion of the original building that was once on the edge of the city. After several additions to the structure, the Association was able to house two of its entities: Angus productions, Inc. and the Angus Foundation. From humble beginnings in the home of its early executives, the American Angus Association has come a long way in 123 years of service to America's cattlemen.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the American Angus Association. The Association has been remarkable in its many years of service and the city of St. Joseph is proud to be their home. I wish to thank the American Angus Association for all that they do and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MR. CHUCK AND MRS. EVELYN
SEBES IN CELEBRATION OF
THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:
JUNE 16, 2006

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Chuck and Evelyn Sebes, as they celebrate 50 years of love and commitment that continues to lift the lives of family, friends, and extends outward into our community.

Chuck and Evelyn met in 1953 and wed 3 years later on June 16, 1956. In 1959, they bought their home in Parma, where they still live. Evelyn was employed by Ohio Bell for several years and decided to leave the workforce to devote her time to her children. Together, Evelyn and Chuck lovingly raised their four children: Joe, Jim, Janet, and Joyce. Later, Evelyn returned to work part-time for Higbees and Dillard's, and worked at both stores for a total of nearly 30 years.

Chuck worked for National Tool Company for 22 years until the company closed. While there, he served as President of the United Steel Workers of America, Local 4827, a tenure which reflected his unwavering focus on the rights and welfare of workers and their families. Chuck was later appointed to the Ohio Regional Board of Review for Worker's Compensation by then Governor Richard Celeste. In 1991, he was appointed by Martin E. Vittardi, Clerk of Parma Municipal Court, to serve as his Chief Deputy, where he continues his service today. Chuck has served as a Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Precinct committee person and as an Executive Committee member and is the longest serving City Leader for the Parma Democratic Party. He is an active member of Parma Southwest COPE, AFL-CIO and together with Evelyn they belong to Parma Elks Lodge 1938. Chuck and Evelyn's passionate sense of volunteerism, especially on behalf of improving wages and working conditions for workers, continues to positively impact countless families throughout our community.

The bond they share with their children comes from life lessons that Chuck and Evelyn taught them while growing up. To be selfless, to lead a life of volunteerism, to live by the golden rule—"do unto others as you would have them do unto you"—and to remember that there is nothing as important as God's gift of family. The memory of their mother's soft skin while holding them reminds them of a safe and loving childhood. It was the sound of their father's voice telling them colorful stories and jokes that brought laughter into their home. Their grandchildren Danielle, Shelley, Jackie, Christopher, Lauren, Samantha, and Jamie fill Chuck and Evelyn's lives with pride and love. At gatherings, it is Evelyn's potato salad and Chuck's ethnic dishes that everyone looks forward to. Time spent with friends playing pinochle and poker or bowling has formed lifelong friendships. Their legacy will be one of dedication to one another, to their family, and to their community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of my dear friends, Chuck and Evelyn Sebes, as we join them in

celebration of this momentous occasion—their 50th wedding anniversary. Their devotion to each other, to their children, grandchildren and friends, and their commitment to giving back to others continues to touch the lives of everyone they I know, including my own, and serves to strengthen and uplift our entire community.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5638, PERMANENT ES-
TATE TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

As a part-time farmer myself, I support tax relief that helps our farms and small businesses grow. I have supported raising the estate tax exemption level several times in previous years. However, this must be done in a responsible manner that does not dishonor our values, shortchange our essential services, or heap more debt on our children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, H.R. 5638 fails this basic test. H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006 is far from the "compromise" that its authors claim. This bill would result in almost 80 percent as much lost revenue as a full repeal of the estate tax. H.R. 5638 would cost the American people \$762 billion in the first 10 years of its enactment.

The Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006 is the latest example of this Congressional Majority's misplaced priorities. Less than 1 percent of estates will pay the estate tax this year under the exemption in current law and only 7,500 estates nationwide would be taxable under the \$3.5 million exemption that would take effect in 2009. Under current law, 997 of every 1,000 estates would not pay any part of Federal estate taxes. Given current circumstances, the timing could not be worse for giving tax breaks that only apply to multimillionaires' estates.

I am very proud that during my first term in the U.S. House, Congress and the President balanced the Federal budget for the first time in a generation. Until just a few years ago, the budget remained balanced and the surpluses we produced were being used to pay down the national debt and strengthen Social Security. The current Republican regime in the White House and Congress has reversed that progress and the Nation is much worse off because of their policies. Today the national debt stands at \$8.4 trillion. We face the danger of being forced to borrow more money from countries like China to pay our national debt and putting ourselves at the mercy of their rising interest rates. A nation at war cannot justify adding almost \$800 billion to this staggering debt. We cannot continue to pile on debt that our future generations will be forced to pay.

Increasing this budget shortfall only makes it more difficult to invest in our true priorities. We are still a nation at war and some of our soldiers lack the best armor. We are facing another hurricane season while continuing to rebuild the Gulf Coast following Hurricane