

factors, one of its chief determinants is certainty and predictability. It is for this reason that I believe we must act now to extend the critical tax relief of the last 6 years. Industry is already making operational decisions today based on the business environment of tomorrow, and it is troubling to think that, absent any signals from Washington to the contrary, they are expecting tax increases. It is also time to focus our attention on other elements of our long-term economic prosperity, and that includes America's competitive position relative to our largest global competitors. I am concerned that we have some of the highest business taxes among the top economies in the world. This is something that we must work to change if we hope to compete in the 21st century.

One of our country's most valuable assets is our workforce, and fostering the continued competitiveness of this asset is a growing challenge. This is one of the reasons I support small business expensing, both as a short-term and long-term tax policy. Workers grow and learn on the job, underscoring the critical importance of businesses keeping their doors open and expanding. Nearly two-thirds of all new job creation in the U.S. comes from small businesses. In the context of an economic stimulus, increasing small business expensing limits would help keep workers employed and even create new jobs as our country weathers an uncertain economic time.

How does small business expensing help? Second, when facing slower economic growth, and the potential for job loss, expensing frees up potentially affected businesses from spending so much of their cash flow on overhead, therefore enabling them to retain existing workers, hire new workers, and focus on expansion rather than just staying afloat. Expensing makes this possible by allowing companies to write-off 100 percent of new, otherwise depreciable assets immediately.

While my legislation would grant a short-term increase in the current law expensing limits, expensing makes for good long-term investment-focused tax policy as well. I look forward to working with others in the House and Senate to approve this measure, and continue the debate over long-term tax policies that really get at the bedrock of America's economic growth.

COMMEMORATING "MR. MENDOCINO" JOHN A. PARDUCCI FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE MENDOCINO COUNTY WINE INDUSTRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary grape grower, winemaker and friend on the occasion of his 90th birthday. John Angelo Parducci has been in the wine business in Mendocino County for more than seven decades.

His contributions to the wine industry in Mendocino County, as well as to all of northern California, have helped one of the region's most important agricultural products grow to international acclaim. His lifelong commitment began at an early age.

The grandson of an Italian immigrant, John Parducci is a third generation winemaker. He was born on January 22, 1918, to Adolph Parducci and Isabella Katherine Lucchetti Parducci in the same house where his mother had been born, just south of the Mendocino County line. Adolph moved his family to Ukiah, and at about the same time Prohibition began, built Parducci Winery, the oldest in Mendocino County.

In 1933, 14-year-old John accompanied 40 train carloads of grapes his family was shipping to the east coast. When he returned to Ukiah, he took part in the first of a lifetime of grape harvests. He filled jugs from magnificent 50-gallon redwood tanks, some of which still exist at the old winery. Parducci was the first to bottle and label varietal wines in Mendocino County, the first to use Anderson Valley on a label and the first to promote Mendocino winemaking around the country.

In 1937, John Parducci married the love of his life Margaret Louise Romer. They had two sons. In 1960 he took over the winery from his father and continued with his passionate and opinionated quest to make great wine at an affordable price. The original Parducci Winery was recently purchased by the Mendocino Wine Company, which continues the label.

Not one to retire, however, in 1999, John Parducci and his grandson Rich, started McNab Ridge Winery in the pristine McNab Valley, where John hunted deer, turkey, and wild pigs in his younger years. His winemaking legacy continues under the McNab Ridge and John A. Parducci Signature Heritage Series labels.

Accolades and honors have poured in over the years. In 2003 he was awarded the California State Fair Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been America's Ambassador of Wine, recognized by the Wine Institute, and named winemaker of the year by the Los Angeles County Fair, the North Coast Knights of the Vine, the City of Los Angeles, and the Texas Knights of the Vine.

Over the years John has found time to give service to the community through his membership in the Masons, Rotary and Shriners in Ukiah. In 1999 he received the prestigious Norman Lippman Award in Nashville for his community service as well as his winemaking.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, John Parducci has earned the admiration and respect of his peers and left a positive legacy for the future of winemaking not only in Mendocino County, but all across our country. For these reasons, it is appropriate that we honor Mr. Mendocino—John Parducci.

SUPPLEMENTAL MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2768) to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes:

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Chairman, I would first like to thank Chairman MILLER and the members

of his committee for their hard work and dedication to improving the safety of our Nation's mines and bringing this important issue to the forefront. As we all know, the tragic mining accidents of the last few years have made this a serious topic of national and public debate.

I am a strong supporter of increasing safety at our Nation's mines. This is why I strongly supported and voted for the MINER Act of 2006. Since its enactment, I have continued to support its complete implementation and I look forward to the mining industry reaching full compliance with its provisions.

While Chairman MILLER's bill, the S-MINER Act, aims to further strengthen mining industry safety and health standards, I have serious concerns about how this bill will affect local mining operations in my congressional district and the State of Oklahoma.

This new mining safety legislation will impose a one-size-fits-all set of safety standards and regulations upon the mining industry, regardless of a mining operation's differing characteristics or risk factors. Therefore, numerous surface mines in my district would be forced to comply with expensive Government regulations that do not enhance safety for their workers.

Fine increases and the process laid out in the S-MINER Act for evaluating and judging regulatory infractions are also matters of great concern to me. Requiring increased fines to be made in escrow, while a citation is investigated, may be reasonable for large mining companies. However, for the small mining operations in my district, this requirement would be financially crippling and is likely to precipitate the loss of valued jobs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, it is my firm belief this new mine safety legislation comes far too soon after the enactment of the MINER Act of 2006. Currently the mining operations in my congressional district and the State of Oklahoma are working diligently to achieve full compliance with the new law. I am concerned the additional regulations and standards set forth in the S-MINER Act of 2008 will be financially overwhelming to an industry that is a vital supplier of jobs for my constituents. I believe it very well could reduce progress on implementing the achievements of the MINER Act.

It is for these reasons listed above, Mr. Chairman, I voted against the S-MINER Act when it came before the House floor for a vote. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the future sustainability and safety of our Nation's mines, which are integral to the vitality of our Nation's energy supply and strength of the American economy.

RECOGNIZING JOHN BRENNAN FROM NEW YORK

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Brennan, a resident of my congressional district in upstate New York, and his extraordinary record of service for World War II veterans.

In the spring of 2004, John formed a committee with the goal of giving World War II veterans from Herkimer County, New York, a historic once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the

World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. The first 3-day, 2-night trip was in September 2004, and two more followed in May and September 2005. In total, approximately 190 Herkimer veterans traveled to D.C. These all-expense paid trips, financed entirely by private donations, are believed to be the first of their kind in the Nation. Because all of their expenses were covered, every veteran who wanted to, and was physically able, made the trip.

In 2007, he was approached about duplicating the Herkimer project for the World War II veterans from Oneida County, New York. In the course of four trips, more than 400 Oneida veterans made the journey to Washington. After the Hamilton County, New York, legislature contacted John, 17 World War II veterans from Hamilton joined the last Oneida trip.

The son of James and Grace Brennan, John was born and raised in Cohoes, New York. He graduated cum laude from Siena College and Albany Law School. Currently, he is employed as the principal law clerk for Michael E. Daley, the State Supreme Court Justice for Herkimer County.

In addition to his work for veterans, John's service to the community includes organizing the Oneida and Herkimer Counties Bar Associations' participation in the Herkimer County Marine Corps League's Holly Days Toy Drive and serving as an assistant coach in the Herkimer Youth Basketball Program. He is also active in many community associations, including serving as the vice-chair of the Valley Health Services board of directors and on the advisory boards of the Herkimer County Salvation Army and the Herkimer County Child Advocacy Center. In addition, he is on the district council of the Boy Scouts of America, Revolutionary Trails Council and the Herkimer County Law Library Board.

John has been the recipient of numerous awards for his commitment to the community. He has received the Oneida County Bar Association Director's Award, the Mohawk Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross's Volunteer Leadership and Faithful Service Awards and the New York State Unified Court System's Merit Performance Award for Community Service and Humanitarian Pursuits. Veterans' organizations, including the Herkimer Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4915, the Herkimer County Veterans Council and the Iliion Marine Corps League, have also recognized his work with awards.

John's exceptional dedication to veterans is to be commended. Thank you, John, for all you have done.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE v. WADE

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*. Since 1973, women in this country have exercised choice over their health and the future of their lives. Celebration of this landmark decision is a celebration of America's commitment to uphold freedom and liberty for all.

According to the National Abortion Federation, abortion was actually legal, common, and

publicly advertised until the mid 1880s. When abortions became illegal, many women died or suffered serious medical problems after attempting to self-induce their abortions or by going to untrained practitioners who performed abortions with primitive methods or in unsanitary conditions. Prior to this 1973 decision, women with economic means were able to access medical assistance, (however illegal) while poor women in desperation were forced to subject themselves to back-alley abortions and the subsequent consequences to health, dignity, and privacy. According to the advocacy group Human Rights Watch, approximately 13 percent of maternal deaths worldwide today are attributable to unsafe abortion—between 68,000 and 78,000 deaths annually.

Equitable access to safe abortion services is first and foremost a human right. It has been accurately stated, "Where abortion is safe and legal, no one is forced to have one"—Human Rights Watch. Having a choice and access to a safe abortion is an enormous concern, estimated to affect one in three American women by the age of 45—National Abortion Federation.

In many countries, the denial of reproductive choices makes women succumb to second rate citizenship, further perpetuating the feminization of poverty. Where women are able to exercise choice, they are in control of their opportunities without intrusion by their government. Any restriction on such a choice offends fundamental liberties.

The social, economic and physical consequences of denying women choice are devastating. Because of our global position as a model of democracy and freedom, it is imperative that we stand to acknowledge this decision of the Supreme Court that affirms women's jurisdiction over their bodies and extends the message that the United States is a country which affirms reproductive choice. May we forever remain a Nation that does not corner its citizens, but rather respects their capacity to make decisions over their health and future pursuits.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL JAMES L. CAMPBELL

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor LTG James L. Campbell for his long and distinguished service in the United States Army. I have had the privilege to know General Campbell since 1999 when he commanded the Army's famed 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Fort Drum in my 23d Congressional District.

LTG James L. Campbell will officially retire from the United States Army on March 1, 2008, after more than 36 years of dedicated service to our Nation, culminating in his assignment as the 13th Director of the Army Staff. Throughout his career, General Campbell has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. Many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with General Campbell on a wide variety of Army issues

and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments.

Upon graduating from the University of Missouri in 1971 and completing the Reserve Officer's Training Corps program, General Campbell was commissioned as a second lieutenant of infantry. Since that time, he received two advanced degrees and served in a variety of command and staff assignments, leading men and women in peace and war in places like Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. As the leader of a joint task force in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, General Campbell helped account for America's missing service personnel from the Vietnam war. For the past 3 years, General Campbell has served as Director of the Army Staff, responsible for synchronizing the day-to-day operations of America's 1.2 million-person Army. He has proven himself a tremendous wartime leader who has demonstrated unselfish devotion to our Nation and the soldiers he leads.

General Campbell has led the Army Staff during one of the most challenging periods in the Army's history. He directed the Army's efforts to transform and modernize the force and implement the largest Base Realignment and Closure in history all during a time of war. His efforts were instrumental in leading the staff through monumental change in the way the Army sustains, transforms, grows, and modernizes. This complex effort established standard organizational designs more relevant to current operational requirements and significantly increased the Army's capability to support Combatant Commanders.

Among his many awards and decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Indeed, through these varying assignments, Lieutenant General Campbell has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Army and our Nation. His actions and counsel were invaluable to Army leaders as they considered the impact of critically important issues.

Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration and appreciation that I pay tribute to General Campbell, his wife, Carol, and their two children, Scott and Casey, for the commitment, sacrifices, and contributions that they have made throughout his honorable military career. I thank General Campbell for his more than 36 years of dedicated and exceptional service and wish him many years of continued success and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO JOANIE HELGESEN

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joanie Helgesen for winning the title of Ms. Florida Senior America 2007. A constituent of mine from Boynton Beach, Ms. Helgesen proudly represents the entire senior community of Florida, and I am honored that she resides within my congressional district.

The Ms. Senior America Pageant first began in 1971 and has since been expressing the