

Charter Member of the New Community United Methodist Church. She is a past-president of the Oakhurst Sierra Sunrise Rotary, past-president of the California State Society of American Medical Technologists, past-board member of the Madera County Workforce Investment Board, past-member of the Boys and Girls Club, and past-Chaplain for the Oakhurst Elks Lodge. For her service to the community, Ms. Scott was the Golden Apple Award Recipient for 2005/2006 and was named "Oakhurst Town Mother" in 2004 by Angels Among Us, Woman of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Beverly Scott on her achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Scott and the Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE HARRISON VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE BLUE RIBBON AWARD

**HON. HARRY TEAGUE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Valley View Elementary School in Las Cruces, New Mexico, for receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award awarded by the U.S. Department of Education for demonstrating academic excellence and dramatic gains in student achievement levels.

The Blue Ribbon Schools award was created in 1982 to recognize schools where students attain and maintain high academic standards and are pushed to improve themselves and further their dedication to scholastic achievement. This award shows that Valley View Elementary School is working with its students to improving its academic standing and educational excellence.

Schools like Valley View Elementary earn the Blue Ribbon Schools Award because of the hard work and the tireless work of its educators and families. The students also worked hard to improve themselves and make sure that their hard work paid off. Valley View Elementary School exemplifies what it means for a school to help its students strive towards academic excellence.

I am honored to have Blue Ribbon Schools like Valley View Elementary School in my district. I commend their achievement and wish them luck in continuing their academic achievement.

MARIE HARRIS

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respects to the passing of my friend Marie Harris. Let this congressional insert serve as a tribute to her memory and celebration of her meaningful life.

Marie Harris came to Pacoima in 1960 from Detroit where she successfully co-owned the Elite Boulevard House of Fashions and cap-

tered the "Formal Award" in a nationwide competition from the National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers, Inc. Her professional success continued as she transferred her membership with this organization to the Los Angeles Chapter and served as Fashion Coordinator, spearheading the unforgettable Designers Showcase at the Beverly Hilton in 1963 and 1964. She began tireless efforts producing a series of Designers Showcase Fashion Shows to help raise funds to build a new edifice and educational unit of the Parks Chapel AME Church in Pacoima, and continued her work in the fashion world by becoming a columnist for the North East Valley Post writing two columns weekly, "Fashions LTD" and "Kaleidoscope" society scoop.

Marie was known for her spirit of volunteerism and unwavering dedication to public service. In 1980, Marie was appointed to the Mayor's Committee on the city's Bicentennial Celebration in the Sepulveda Basin, which motivated her to produce the Back to Pacoima Expo at the Hansen Dam Amphitheater to honor Pacoima's trailblazers. One of the many results of Marie's work in Pacoima was the naming of "Plaza of the Stars," a major shopping center located at Glenoaks and Van Nuys Boulevards.

Marie has a history of community involvement and her invaluable service has made an indelible mark on the San Fernando Valley. She was on the Board of Directors for the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley Vision 2020 and the Commissioner for the Children's Museum and Commission for the San Fernando Valley Fair. She was aptly recognized as Woman of the Year by Assemblyman Richard Katz, and later appointed as an Honorary Mayor of Pacoima by former City of Los Angeles Councilman Ernani Bernardi.

Marie was a devoted mother, and wife for the past fifty years to Alvin Harris, deceased in January 2001. She is survived by her three children Sidney Alvin, Rolene Marie, Alton Keith and five grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Marie Harris.

HONORING DOUG CARROLL

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Doug Carroll of San Luis Obispo, CA. He is a valued member of the Central Coast Community and a valiant champion for all those living with Multiple Sclerosis. Since being diagnosed, "Pastor Doug" has maintained an active schedule, traveling to Sacramento and Washington, DC to lobby on behalf of all those affected by this horrible disease.

Back on the Central Coast, Pastor Doug managed to fit in MS fundraising and awareness events between a busy social calendar, multiple doctor and physical therapy appointments and his famous cooking classes at Spencer Market. He is a friend and inspiration to all who know him.

Though his health has deteriorated, his desire to educate others about MS has not. Countless people in my community have learned of the horrible effects this degenera-

tive disease can have on an individual. Pastor Doug has handled these challenges with grace, good humor and humility. He is an example to us all and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

RECOGNIZING MELVIN FRIERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT AS A STAFF MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Melvin Frierson as he retires after 23 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mel began his federal career as a staff member for Congressman Mel Price, in 1986. When Congressman Price passed away in 1988 and I was elected to fill the vacant seat, Mel remained as one of my senior staff members and he has served loyally and with distinction ever since.

In addition to his work as a member of my Congressional staff, Mel has long been involved in local politics and was a precinct committeeman in East St. Louis for over 30 years. Mel is a 33d degree Mason and has been involved in Freemasonry for 40 years. He was the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois for 2 terms, from 1985 to 1986 and is currently Deputy of the Orient for the Scottish Rite, Masonry, Prince Hall Affiliation in the State of Illinois.

Mel's community and charitable involvement has been extensive. For years, he has delivered food to needy families during the holidays, often covering the cost himself. He has also participated in the Toys for Tots campaign as well as the Relay for Life which supports the American Cancer Society.

Mel's faith and his family have always been his cornerstones. He is a long-time member of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, in East St. Louis. Mel's family, including daughters, Ingrid and Kimberly, son Brett and grandchildren have been a source of great pride and will no doubt see a good deal more of their father and grandfather now that he is retiring.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of recognition and appreciation for a loyal staff member and good friend.

HONORING MR. TIMOTHY WILL FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Timothy Will of Rutherfordton, North Carolina, for his exemplary service to the people of Western North Carolina. Mr. Will

recently received the \$100,000 Purpose Prize for two local projects he has dedicated his time, energy and resources toward.

Mr. Will created FarmersFreshMarket.org, a Web site that connects local small farmers to chefs and consumers in metropolitan areas. Many of these farmers were previously unemployed after textile and furniture factory closings in the area. FarmersFreshMarket.org opens farmers to a new, lucrative market and helps those in urban areas take part in the local food movement and reconnect to the farm to serve local, fresh, and seasonal fare in their homes and restaurants.

Mr. Will also helped create the Foothills Connect Business and Technology Center to support local entrepreneurs and provide community Internet access to an area with few public computer terminals, and limited home and business access. With the help of grants, Foothills Connect wired Rutherford County's public schools with fiber optic connections. Foothills Connect also trained teachers how to use the technology, and instructed area residents on how to refurbish old computers to donate to low-income families.

By creating new business opportunities and providing vital community services to an area hit hard by unemployment, Mr. Will is a testament to the spirit of entrepreneurship and community giving. I am proud to honor Mr. Will today, and want to thank him for his invaluable contributions to Western North Carolina.

#### INTRODUCING THE FREE COMPETITION IN CURRENCY ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Free Competition in Currency Act of 2009. Currency, or money, is what allows civilization to flourish. In the absence of money, barter is the name of the game; if the farmer needs shoes, he must trade his eggs and milk to the cobbler and hope that the cobbler needs eggs and milk. Money makes the transaction process far easier. Rather than having to search for someone with reciprocal wants, the farmer can exchange his milk and eggs for an agreed-upon medium of exchange with which he can then purchase shoes.

This medium of exchange should satisfy certain properties: it should be durable, that is to say, it does not wear out easily; it should be portable, that is, easily carried; it should be divisible into units usable for everyday transactions; it should be recognizable and uniform, so that one unit of money has the same properties as every other unit; it should be scarce, in the economic sense, so that the extant supply does not satisfy the wants of everyone demanding it; it should be stable, so that the value of its purchasing power does not fluctuate wildly; and it should be reproducible, so that enough units of money can be created to satisfy the needs of exchange.

Over millennia of human history, gold and silver have been the two metals that have most often satisfied these conditions, survived the market process, and gained the trust of billions of people. Gold and silver are difficult to counterfeit, a property which ensures they

will always be accepted in commerce. It is precisely for this reason that gold and silver are anathema to governments. A supply of gold and silver that is limited in supply by nature cannot be inflated, and thus serves as a check on the growth of government. Without the ability to inflate the currency, governments find themselves constrained in their actions, unable to carry on wars of aggression or to appease their overtaxed citizens with bread and circuses.

At this country's founding, there was no government controlled national currency. While the Constitution established the congressional power of minting coins, it was not until 1792 that the U.S. Mint was formally established. In the meantime, Americans made do with foreign silver and gold coins. Even after the Mint's operations got underway, foreign coins continued to circulate within the United States, and did so for several decades.

On the desk in my office I have a sign that says: "Don't steal—the government hates competition." Indeed, any power a government arrogates to itself, it is loathe to give back to the people. Just as we have gone from a constitutionally instituted national defense consisting of a limited army and navy bolstered by militias and letters of marque and reprisal, we have moved from a system of competing currencies to a government-instituted banking cartel that monopolizes the issuance of currency. In order to reintroduce a system of competing currencies, there are three steps that must be taken to produce a legal climate favorable to competition.

The first step consists of eliminating legal tender laws. Article I Section 10 of the Constitution forbids the States from making anything but gold and silver a legal tender in payment of debts. States are not required to enact legal tender laws, but should they choose to, the only acceptable legal tender is gold and silver, the two precious metals that individuals throughout history and across cultures have used as currency. However, there is nothing in the Constitution that grants the Congress the power to enact legal tender laws. We, the Congress, have the power to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, but not to declare a legal tender. Yet, there is a section of U.S. Code, 31 U.S.C. 5103, that purports to establish U.S. coins and currency, including Federal Reserve notes, as legal tender.

Historically, legal tender laws have been used by governments to force their citizens to accept debased and devalued currency. Gresham's Law describes this phenomenon, which can be summed up in one phrase: bad money drives out good money. An emperor, a king, or a dictator might mint coins with half an ounce of gold and force merchants, under pain of death, to accept them as though they contained one ounce of gold. Each ounce of the king's gold could now be minted into two coins instead of one, so the king now had twice as much "money" to spend on building castles and raising armies. As these legally overvalued coins circulated, the coins containing the full ounce of gold would be pulled out of circulation and hoarded. We saw this same phenomenon happen in the mid-1960s when the U.S. government began to mint subsidiary coinage out of copper and nickel rather than silver. The copper and nickel coins were legally overvalued, the silver coins undervalued in relation, and silver coins vanished from circulation.

These actions also give rise to the most pernicious effects of inflation. Most of the merchants and peasants who received this devalued currency felt the full effects of inflation, the rise in prices and the lowered standard of living, before they received any of the new currency. By the time they received the new currency, prices had long since doubled, and the new currency they received would give them no benefit.

In the absence of legal tender laws, Gresham's Law no longer holds. If people are free to reject debased currency, and instead demand sound money, sound money will gradually return to use in society. Merchants would have been free to reject the king's coin and accept only coins containing full metal weight.

The second step to reestablishing competing currencies is to eliminate laws that prohibit the operation of private mints. One private enterprise which attempted to popularize the use of precious metal coins was Liberty Services, the creators of the Liberty Dollar. Evidently the government felt threatened, as Liberty Dollars had all their precious metal coins seized by the FBI and Secret Service in November of 2007. Of course, not all of these coins were owned by Liberty Services, as many were held in trust as backing for silver and gold certificates which Liberty Services issued. None of this matters, of course, to the government, which hates competition. The responsibility to protect contracts is of no interest to the government.

The sections of U.S. Code which Liberty Services is accused of violating are erroneously considered to be anti-counterfeiting statutes, when in fact their purpose was to shut down private mints that had been operating in California. California was awash in gold in the aftermath of the 1849 gold rush, yet had no U.S. Mint to mint coinage. There was not enough foreign coinage circulating in California either, so private mints stepped into the breach to provide their own coins. As was to become the case in other industries during the Progressive era, the private mints were eventually accused of circulating debased (substandard) coinage, and with the supposed aim of providing government-sanctioned regulation and a government guarantee of purity, the 1864 Coinage Act was passed, which banned private mints from producing their own coins for circulation as currency.

The final step to ensuring competing currencies is to eliminate capital gains and sales taxes on gold and silver coins. Under current federal law, coins are considered collectibles, and are liable for capital gains taxes. Short-term capital gains rates are at income tax levels, up to 35 percent, while long-term capital gains taxes are assessed at the collectibles rate of 28 percent. Furthermore, these taxes actually tax monetary debasement. As the dollar weakens, the nominal dollar value of gold increases. The purchasing power of gold may remain relatively constant, but as the nominal dollar value increases, the Federal Government considers this an increase in wealth, and taxes accordingly. Thus, the more the dollar is debased, the more capital gains taxes must be paid on holdings of gold and other metals.

Just as pernicious are the sales and use taxes which are assessed on gold and silver at the state level in many States. Imagine having to pay sales tax at the bank every time you change a \$10 bill for a roll of quarters to do laundry. Inflation is a pernicious tax on the