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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HURT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 30, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT HURT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING DANIEL P. MULHOLLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of a man who has been an institution within an institution: Daniel P. Mulhollan, the director of our Congressional Research Service, who will retire next month after more than 17 years at the helm of CRS and nearly 42 years of service to the Congress overall.

To say that Dan is an institution around here is really an understatement.

In many ways, he has personified the growth of CRS from a relatively small division of the Library of Congress into the world-class source of objective and authoritative research and analysis that it is today.

Dan first joined what was then the Legislative Reference Service as an analyst in American national government in September of 1969, fresh out of his doctoral training at Georgetown. At the time, just two of the 435 Members currently serving in this House had been elected to Congress—and a fair number serving here hadn't even been born yet!

For the next 25 years, Dan steadily acquired seniority and respect within the Government Division of CRS, excelling as both an analyst and a division chief. When the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, conducted a strategic review of the Library's priorities in the early 1990s, Dan was tapped to help ensure that the Library's services were as relevant as possible to the Members, committees, and staff that it exists to serve. This assignment led him to assume the role of Acting Deputy Librarian of Congress, and when CRS found itself in search of a new director a few years later, Dan was a natural fit.

As director, Dan has continued to exemplify both the analytical depth that is at the core of his organization's mission and the strategic vision needed to bring CRS into the 21st century. He expanded the service's ability to bring interdisciplinary scholarship to bear on complex issues of policy, recruiting scientists and engineers to work alongside policy analysts and attorneys. He developed a personnel succession plan to ensure that CRS will continue to be able to recruit topnotch talent as older analysts retire.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I would be happy to yield to my friend from

California, who I know has made a special effort, given his leadership duties, to join us on the floor.

Mr. DREIER. I would like to join the gentleman from North Carolina in extending our hearty congratulations to Dan Mulhollan for his extraordinary service to this institution and, in particular, for the work that he has done to ensure that the House Democracy Partnership has been able to succeed.

I want to thank my friend for taking out this very important time, and I thank him for yielding.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank my friend and colleague Mr. DREIER, the chairman of the House Democracy Partnership, which I had the privilege to chair for the past four years.

Dan Mulhollan and the Congressional Research Service have indeed been critical partners in our efforts around the world in developing democracies to increase the capacity of their parliaments.

Mr. DREIER. We should say we have four of them here, in fact, this week.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. We have delegations from four parliaments in town this week for workshops on committee operations. They're from Pakistan, Indonesia, some members from Iraq—

Mr. DREIER. Lebanon.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. And from Lebanon. That's right.

There are four groups of parliamentarians here this week, and the CRS, as usual, is a full partner in putting on workshops for these members, workshops that will help them strengthen their operations back home. These exchanges are very useful to us as well.

As my colleague has stressed, the main reason for the two of us being here to offer this tribute today is because of the support Dan Mulhollan has offered over the years: first to the Frost-Solomon Task Force, the precursor of our present commission,

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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which in the early 1990s worked in Central and Eastern Europe, offering technical assistance to the parliaments emerging from communist rule; and then for the last 6 years to the House Democracy Partnership.

So we are happy to join today in thanking Dan Mulhollan for all these years of work on behalf of the Congress and particularly for the kind of support that he has offered our international partnerships.

Dan knows a lot about Congress and has a profound respect for the institution. He has brought a particular sense of mission to the work of our commissions. As a political scientist, he recognizes how critical legislative research is to the growth of democracy, first in post-Communist Europe and now to all kinds of emerging democracies around the world.

I had the privilege of traveling last year with Dan to Warsaw to observe the 20th anniversary of that earlier task force's work. I can assure my colleagues he received a hero's welcome. His work has not gone unnoticed, and it is not going to go unnoticed by us either.

We want to salute Dan Mulhollan for his many, many years of distinguished service. We want to thank him for all that he has done, and we want to wish him well in his retirement and offer him our sincere gratitude and praise for a job well done.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF EDGAR HAGOPIAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Edgar Hagopian and to mourn his passing at the age of 80.

Born on August 16, 1930, to Haroutun and Cariana Hagopian, Edgar dedicated his life to serving our community and our country. He was an exemplary citizen with an incredible work ethic who held an absolute love for his ancestral Armenia.

After graduating from Detroit's Cass Tech High School in 1948, Edgar studied at the University of Michigan and valiantly served in the United States Army during the Korean war. After being honorably discharged on December 7, 1954, Technical Sergeant Hagopian joined his father's business, where he had frequently worked since childhood.

Thus began a long and storied career, establishing himself not only as a successful entrepreneur but as an ardent advocate and activist for our community and Armenian causes.

Edgar served on the board of directors of the Armenian Assembly of America, the board of governors of the Michigan Design Center, the Detroit chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, and the Michigan chapter of the Seeds of Peace. He was

an associate in the Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Arts, and was involved with the Armenian Library. Edgar also founded the Detroit chapter of the Armenian American Business Council.

Edgar was named "Man of the Year" by the Canadian Armenian Business Council in 1995. In 2002, he was inducted into the International Institute Heritage Hall of Fame, and Edgar was awarded the 2005 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. This prestigious award was created to honor ancestral groups who, through struggle, sacrifice, and success, helped build this great Nation.

Edgar Hagopian deeply loved his community, and his community loved him. Always mindful of his humble roots, Edgar always endeavored to better our world. He was a mentor to many and an avid patron of the arts. A pensive philanthropist, Edgar led Hagopian Companies to donate in excess of \$70 million in goods and services to local charities.

Sadly, on March 27, 2011, Edgar passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Sarah, and his children Suzanne, Edmond, and Angela. Yet Edgar's legacy will continue in the lives of his grandsons Alexander, Adam, and Nicholas. As he joins his brother Arthur in eternity, Edgar is also survived by sisters Mary and Ilene and his brother Steve.

Mr. Speaker, Edgar Hagopian will be long remembered as a compassionate father, a dedicated husband, a passionate champion of Armenian causes, a philanthropist, a community leader, and above all, as a friend. Edgar was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community, and his country.

Today, as we bid Edgar Hagopian farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and in honoring his unwavering patriotism and legendary service to our community and our country.

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I would also ask us to reflect on what is perhaps the most poignant part of Edgar's legacy: We are not enriched by what we do for ourselves but by what we do for others within the short span of time God grants. Truly, Edgar Hagopian used the time he was given to leave us all better off; and now, in honor of him, let us return the favor to our fellow human beings.

THE FAIRNESS IN TAXATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a grave threat to both our economy and our democracy, and that is the disappearing middle class.

Over the last 30 years, there has been a dramatic and deliberate transfer of wealth from the middle class to the

very, very, very rich. Income inequality is now at the highest level since 1928. Wages have stagnated for middle and working class families despite enormous gains in productivity. Where has the money gone?

This chart shows the change in the average pre-tax household income from 1979 to 2005. The bottom 20 percent—that's that number way down in the corner—of households saw their incomes over those 30 years grow just \$200. Over the same period, the top 0.1 percent saw income growth of nearly \$6 million each year. The top 100th of 1 percent now makes an average of \$27 million per household per year. The average income for the bottom 90 percent of Americans: \$31,244.

Meanwhile, Republicans, who squandered a budget surplus, created a huge deficit with unpaid-for tax cuts that went mainly to the very rich, and whose policies allowed Wall Street recklessness to bring our economy to near collapse, are now demanding that the middle class foot the bill. Their solution to our fiscal mess is to gut vital programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and to make cuts in domestic spending that would cause an additional 700,000 middle class Americans to lose their jobs.

In the next chart, you can see some of the enormous cuts that they are proposing: \$1.3 billion from community health centers, the only source of medical care for many families; \$5.7 billion from Pell grants, reducing the size of the grant for 9.4 million students who want to go to college; and \$1 billion in funding for high-speed rail, important infrastructure projects that will create good jobs—thousands and thousands of good jobs.

Once again, they are showing their utter disregard for the shrinking middle class and those who aspire to it by cutting important jobs programs and assistance programs for poor families.

Part two of the Republican program for addressing our economic problem, and every other problem, is to cut taxes even more for the rich. Enough is enough. It's time for millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share. This isn't about punishment and it isn't about revenge. It is about fairness.

Currently, the top tax bracket starts at \$375,000, failing to distinguish between the well-off and billionaires. I have introduced the Fairness in Taxation Act, which would create new tax brackets beginning at 45 percent for income over \$1 million, rising to 49 percent for income of \$1 billion a year or more; and, yes, there are people in our country who made \$1 billion or more just last year. Historically, these rates are relatively modest. During most of the Reagan administration, the top tax rate was 50 percent; and in previous decades, the top tax rate was as high as 94 percent.

My bill would also address a fundamental inequality in our current law by taxing capital gains and dividends