

at ordinary income rates in those brackets. Rich hedge fund managers should not be paying a lower tax rate than their secretaries because much of the income of the hedge fund manager is capital gains and dividends.

According to Citizens for Tax Justice, the Fairness in Taxation Act will raise more than \$78.9 billion if enacted in 2011, allowing us to avoid the harsh cuts that will hurt the middle class. This is an idea that Americans support. In a recent poll, 81 percent of respondents supported placing a surtax on Federal income for those who make more than \$1 million per year in order to reduce the deficit.

Passing the Fairness in Taxation Act will allow us to stop the war on the middle class, restore fiscal integrity and fairness, and fund initiatives that reflect our American values and goals.

RECOGNIZING GUS MACHADO FORD FOR RECEIVING THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a constituent of my south Florida community, Gus Machado of Gus Machado Ford, for receiving the Ford Motor Company's President's Award. The President's Award is a prestigious honor and is awarded to less than 10 percent of all dealers nationwide. It recognizes Gus Machado Ford for exceeding customer expectations in every department.

Customer satisfaction is more important than ever during these tough economic times. Its loyal and supportive customer base has allowed Machado Ford to prosper where others have seen their markets shrink. Certainly, in the past year and a half, we have sadly witnessed many dealers close up shop, and it has been a very difficult period for car dealers nationwide; but Gus has not only survived but has flourished. I applaud Gus Machado Ford for making the interests of customers its number one priority.

To further recognize his contribution to our south Florida neighborhoods, two outstanding individuals, Remedios and Fausto Diaz-Oliver, will acknowledge the significant aid that Gus has provided to others with a community event this Sunday. Gus may be best known for his outstanding company, but his hand in helping those less fortunate in our south Florida area is admirable.

In 1985, Gus organized the first golf shootout at the Doral Golf Resort. With all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society, the charity event was so successful that his shootout has become an annual event.

Along with his golf event, Gus is also founder of two additional charity events. He is the founder of the first

PGA Tour Senior Golf Classic in Miami at Key Biscayne, which donates to the American Cancer Society and to the United Way. He is also the founder of the Gus Machado Classic Charity Golf Tournament, which has raised over half a million dollars for cancer research.

In 2008, to better serve the community through his charitable contributions, he created the Gus Machado Family Foundation. Every year, the foundation celebrates the Gus Machado Community and Back to School Fair on the grounds of his car dealership. The event provides hundreds of children with backpacks full of school supplies. Along with the generous donations of school materials that the foundation supplies to our children, it also offers immunizations and ID cards for kids in conjunction with different State and local government agencies during the back-to-school community fair.

As a contributor to over 30 charitable organizations, few in our community have impacted south Florida as much as Gus has. Again, congratulations to Gus Machado for his recent commendation and for his leadership to our community.

RETIREMENT OF ERVIN HIGGS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ervin Higgs on his well-deserved retirement after 46 years of public service in the Florida Keys. Ervin's long and distinguished career was marked by a solid 35 years as property appraiser of Monroe County, otherwise known as the Keys. In his service to the Keys, Ervin has borne witness to the unique and profound changes that have taken place in our Keys community. His commitment to excellence has truly allowed him to shape the lives of countless Conchs.

It is sad to see such a fine and dedicated public servant retiring, but those who follow in his footsteps will truly have much to establish. There are few greater rewards than the satisfaction of serving one's community, and I thank Ervin so very much for having embraced this most noble of endeavors with such high principles.

Congratulations to Ervin on his retirement, and I wish him all the best on this new chapter of his life.

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LIBYA: THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A VOTE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, a little over a week ago, the executive branch launched U.S. military force against yet another Middle Eastern country. This time it is oil-rich Libya. U.S. naval and air forces attacked Libyan military installations across that country, wiping out air defenses, intelligence systems, tanks, and also apparently is now targeting that nation's ground forces.

Under what policy is the executive branch operating without a vote of Congress in expending millions of defense dollars and State dollars on offensive action taken inside a nation that did nothing provocative toward the United States. In fact, last year, Libya was even a recipient of U.S. foreign aid. The President's justification for this action was that it was not an act of war but, rather, a humanitarian mission to prevent a catastrophe that would have resulted from Libya's military forces under the command of Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi from taking the civilian center of Benghazi.

Our President says he did not act alone, as French, British, Canadian, and other Western NATO members participated in these attacks. The President informed Congress that future operations will be handled by NATO. Well, who exactly decided all of this? Not Congress. If this is not an act of war, as F-16s fly over and bomb and U.S. naval forces shell, what is it?

The President has further said he authorized this military action to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973; yet on that resolution, many nations who normally are U.S. allies abstained from the vote, such as India, Brazil, and Germany.

The President said he sought the permission of the Arab League before taking action. But in fact it was 3 days into the bombing when the press reported the Arab League said it had "no objection" to the bombing. So where in these operations have been the Arab League's planes and soldiers? And I might ask, where is the African Union's engagement? Why are they silent?

It appears the administration consulted key allies from oil-dependent Europe, like the French, who dropped the first bombs, and the British. But the President didn't bother to ask Congress. We live in very strange and dangerous times. The administration says it made a couple of phone calls to Members of Congress serving in the leadership. Well, who exactly were they? And then the administration set up an after-the-fact briefing for Members of Congress in the Capitol Visitor Center. None of these gestures meet the spirit or letter of the law under our Constitution relating to military engagement abroad.

Yes, protest movements seem to be springing up across Africa and the Middle East, and we witness some Libyan rebels—though we really don't know exactly who they are or who is funding them—take to the streets to demand reform and an end to the Qadhafi government's grip on power. But we also see troops very loyal to the Qadhafi regime who are fighting to maintain that regime.

So why is America taking a military role in an internal civil conflict without a vote of Congress on behalf of the American people whose sons and daughters are engaged in these operations? Should we not be clear and vote