

amendment to trim approximately \$240 million from the Subcommittee mark, including approximately \$135 million from the IRS (approximately \$139 million from the President's budget request). While I can appreciate the new budget constraints under which the Committee must operate, I am gravely concerned that a cut of \$135 million will seriously jeopardize the IRS's ability to implement its reform effort mandated by the Restructuring Act.

A funding reduction of \$135 million would: Severely restrict, if not completely impair, IRS' ability to deliver on the Restructuring and Reform Act mandated by the Congress in 1998. Every aspect of the agency's commitment to reorganize the organization, improve customer service and taxpayer rights would be in jeopardy.

Constrain the ability to implement the initiatives so critical to changing how IRS delivers on customer service and improves its treatment of taxpayers and focus on taxpayer rights. For example, the cut would result in reduced plans to deliver better telephone service and tax assistance in Spanish.

Require reduced staffing levels in order to free up the funds necessary to implement congressionally mandated RRA requirements. IRS staff has already been reduced 14% (or 15,600 FTE) since FY 1993—thereby continuing the rapid decline in exam, collection and criminal tax compliance operations.

Reduce finding for the Electronic Tax Administration program, thereby jeopardizing the Congressionally mandated goal of 80 percent electronic filing by the year 2007.

Impair the creation of operating units to help specialized groups of taxpayers including small businesses and ordinary wage earners.

Delay implementation of important taxpayer rights initiatives.

I sincerely hope that the \$135 million will be restored so that the IRS and Congress can achieve its mutual goal of meaningful IRS reform. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the rest of the Congress to ensure that the American people have the modernized revenue service that they deserve.

Sincerely,

CHARLES O. ROSSOTTI,
Commissioner.

IN APPRECIATION OF JOSEPH E. CARTER, FEDERAL WORKER AND THOROUGHBRED HORSEMAN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Joseph E. Carter on the fourth anniversary of his death from cancer, which occurred on July 31, 1995, at the age of 34. Mr. Carter was highly esteemed as a federal worker of great integrity while employed as one of the groundskeepers of the U.S. Capitol. He subsequently was a successful Thoroughbred groom and a respected clocker for "The Daily Racing Form," positions which he greatly enjoyed.

As kind and generous as he was physically powerful, Mr. Carter was quick to help anyone in need, without thought of repayment. This outstanding gentleman regularly helped the frail elderly and the widowed with his strenuous manual labor, and he was known to

drive 80 miles to obtain a second veterinarian's diagnosis regarding a dying horse, in order to try to save the animal's life.

A typical example of Mr. Carter's warm compassion was evidenced when he once offered to adopt a profoundly retarded boy and to give him a safe, affectionate home when it was no longer possible for the child's loving family to keep the boy with them.

When Mr. Carter learned that he was dying of inoperable cancer, he said quietly, "The Lord gave me 29 good years, and I'm thankful. I'm going to die of cancer, but I'm not going to let it defeat me."

Mr. Carter was a credit to his upbringing who died undefeated by the terrible pain which he endured in his last years. The loving son of Bill and Kathy Carter of Brandywine, Maryland, Mr. Carter died with the same dignity and compassion with which he lived. His calm courage and optimism remain an inspiration to those who knew him.

LEHIGH VALLEY HEROES—SHAWN
AND KEVIN KELLY

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today I would like to recognize Kevin and Shawn Kelly of Wilson Borough as Lehigh Valley Heroes. These young boys have truly made a difference in their community.

Kevin, 8, and his brother Shawn, 11, recently extinguished a fire that threatened a nearby home in their community. Recently, they were playing outside when they noticed smoke coming from a grassy area near their neighbor's home. Kevin and Shawn reacted instantly to douse the small fire with water and as a result saved a neighbor's home.

These brave young boys made a difference in Wilson Borough and therefore they are Lehigh Valley Heroes in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

THE AMERICAN MILITARY HEALTH
PROTECTION ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue of vital importance to our men and women in uniform.

Since the end of the Cold War, the Army and Air Force have been reduced by 45 per-

cent, the Navy by 36 percent, and the Marine Corps by 12 percent.

At the same time, our military operations commitments around the world have increased by 300 percent.

The Army alone has participated in 33 separate deployments since 1992, and has troops in over 70 nations.

Our military readiness is stretched thin, our reserves of critical missiles and spare parts have eroded, and our military's quality of life is diminishing.

Retention rates are reaching historic lows and aircraft accidents are climbing.

For too long we have been asking our military to do more with less.

In recent years, this Congress has taken many steps to reverse these trends and provide adequate training and equipment for our Armed Forces personnel. We must continue to do more.

Despite these difficulties, our men and women remain the premier military in the world.

Their devotion and commitment to serve is without question.

Time and again, they risk their lives in the defense of our nation and our interests around the world.

Without their selfless dedication, our nation would not be the great place it remains today.

As such, we in Congress and as a nation, have a responsibility to those military personnel and their families.

We owe them the strongest commitment to their safety and well being we can provide.

However, I am concerned our government may be violating that very principle.

Two years ago the Secretary of Defense announced plans to implement a mandatory anthrax vaccination program for the 2.4 million members of the Armed Forces.

Since that time, I heard from a rapidly growing number of military personnel and family members who believe this vaccine may jeopardize their long-term health and safety as well as that of their families.

The lack of a single, conclusive independent study regarding the long-term health effects of the anthrax vaccine on humans have created additional concerns among our nation's uniformed personnel.

Despite Department of Defense assurances of minimal adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccinations, the standards that the Department uses to determine adverse reactions are insufficient to support their claims.

According to a June 29 article in the San Diego Union-Tribune, Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera acknowledged in a September 1998 memo that the vaccine "involves unusually hazardous risks associated with the potential for adverse reactions in some recipients and the possibility that the desired immunological effect will not be obtained by all recipients."

The article went on to report that the Secretary concluded, there is no certainty that the anthrax used in tests to measure the vaccine's effectiveness "will be sufficiently similar to the pathogen that U.S. forces might encounter" during warfare.

If the Secretary of one of the services raises these concerns, how can we as a nation expect the most junior soldier, sailor, airman, or