

## TAX RULES WAIVER EXTENSION

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing for myself and Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COYNE, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. MATSUI, legislation to extend for one additional year the temporary waiver of the minimum tax rules that deny many families the full benefit of non-refundable personal credits, pending enactment of permanent legislation to address this inequity.

This problem is well known. The tax credits for education and children are limited by the alternative minimum tax. Consequently, more and more average Americans who use the dependent care credit, the new child credit, the HOPE credit or the lifelong learning credit, will be forced to fill out the time consuming, complex alternative minimum tax form. Even worse, a growing number of Americans will have all or part of these credits denied because they are part of the AMT base. For families with three or more children, the refundable portion of the child credit is also subject to the AMT cutback, which this bill also fixes for 1999.

The Department of the Treasury estimated that in 1998, without the "one year" waiver that was enacted last year, eight hundred thousand taxpayers who were entitled to the child credit or the education credits would have been denied the full benefit of these credits by the AMT. And although the AMT was enacted into law to ensure that wealthy individuals pay some tax, a large percentage of these new AMT taxpayers will be married couples who earn between \$45,000 and approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there is widespread agreement to fix this problem either on a permanent basis, or if that is not possible, for one additional year. The Clinton Administration, the House and Senate, and both parties agree. Yet, it has not been accomplished. We are introducing this bill, which extends last year's waiver for one additional year, to highlight the problem once again and to urge quick action to solve it for tax year 1999. Given the lead time the Internal Revenue Service needs to draft and print tax forms for next year, it is necessary for us to take action early next month. Hopefully, legislation that is acceptable to all of us will be enacted on a bipartisan basis shortly.

HONORING OF DR. LORETTA LONG,  
RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED  
WAY'S CONGRESSWOMAN MARY  
T. NORTON MEMORIAL AWARD

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Loretta Long for winning the United Way's Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award.

Initiated by the United Way of Hudson County in 1990, this award recognizes individuals who exhibit a deep commitment to community service as exemplified by Congresswoman Mary T. Norton during her 13 terms in the House of Representatives (1925-1950). A leader who championed thinking outside of the box, Congresswoman Norton advocated government action in areas, such as day care, fair employment practices, health care for veterans, and the inclusion of woman in high levels of government service.

Dr. Loretta Long, one of this year's award recipients, has been with the groundbreaking children's show Sesame Street since its first season. As television has been evolving to portray a more real and true vision of American life, particularly in roles for women and minorities, Dr. Long has enjoyed watching her role as Susan grow from housewife to nurse to working mother.

In addition to her work on Sesame Street, the former schoolteacher is a sought-after educator and consultant who holds a doctorate degree in education from the University of Massachusetts. She has joined several institutions as a distinguished visiting scholar and has taught at Sage College, Rowen University, the University of Scranton, the University of Massachusetts, and Western Michigan University.

Dr. Long extended her years of knowledge and experience in the field of education on topics such as the media and cultural diversity in the following school districts: Albany City Schools; Troy City Schools; Schenectady City Schools; Atlantic City School District; Pittman Consolidated School; Cape May County Schools; Pocono Valley School District; Scranton City Schools; North Pocono Valley Schools; Valley View School District; Scranton Prep; and the Laboratory School at the University of Scranton.

A much deserving award recipient who embodies the life work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton, Dr. Long has dedicated her life to the education of America's children. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Long for all of her outstanding service to the community and for carrying on the work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE  
CONFERENCE**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of an issue of critical importance: the young people of our nation. In a recent essay competition I held in the 3rd district of New Mexico, students shared the following comments:

"It is extremely sad wondering if we are safe when we go to school everyday. Teenage violence is soon going to be a bigger concern than college preparation for teens if something is not done about the issue soon."—Liz Gonzales, senior, Santa Fe High School.

"Most kids need the adults in power to continue to tell us that we can do it and we can

be more, because through knowledge there is power to make your dreams come true."—Erin D. Muffoletto, 9th grade, Mesa Vista High.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to tell the young people of my district and of the nation that we hear them. They are asking for help and we are listening.

On October 19th and 20th Sierra Anne Blue from Kirtland and Erin Muffoletto from South Ojo Caliente will come to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national Voices Against Violence Conference. These dedicated young people will meet with their peers, federal law enforcement and education officials, and many others to help develop solutions to problems related to youth violence.

In addition, I have selected Matthew Garcia from Springer, Amanda Lynn Chavez from Bernalillo, Domnic Biava from Gallup, Liz Gonzales from Santa Fe, Christopher Morris from Navajo, Randy Maestas from Mora, Twana Seschille from Crownpoint, and Deema Rashad from Gallup, to represent their schools on my Student Education Forum in New Mexico. These students will work throughout the school year to explore solutions to problems that plague our schools.

Youth violence is an issue we are all responsible for solving. The Voices Against Violence Conference and the Student Education Forum are two ways to start this process.

To all of the students of New Mexico and the nation, know that I am listening, know that we are listening, know that your voices are being heard.

PULASKI DAY TRIBUTE TO  
POLISH-AMERICANS**HON. MARK FOLEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Polish American Club of Lake Worth, Florida is preparing to celebrate Pulaski Day on October 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, I rise today to pay tribute not only to Casimir Pulaski but to all men and women of Polish descent who have helped to make this Nation the greatest in the world.

Casimir Pulaski was an energetic and fiery soldier who, in July 1777, came to America to offer his services in the Revolutionary War. As a cavalry general he fought courageously and won distinction in several campaigns.

Pulaski was to the American Revolution what Patton was to World War II. Though he was mortally wounded in the Battle of Savannah, he left behind a cavalry unit that earned him the title "Father of the American Cavalry."

Casimir Pulaski knew that freedom isn't free and that America is a great nation because it provides an opportunity for every person regardless of ethnicity.

So Mr. Speaker, once again, I wish to pay tribute to all Polish-Americans as we prepare to celebrate Pulaski Day.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREEN BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR RECEIVING THE HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to share with my colleagues some wonderful news from my district—the Green Bay Police department was recently awarded the prestigious Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing.

The national award formally recognizes the truly outstanding job the Green Bay P.D. continues to do to serve and protect our community. I would particularly like to recognize Green Bay Mayor Paul Jadin, Police Chief Jim Lewis, as well as Steve Scully and Bill Bongle. Officers Scully and Bongle are the community policing officers who submitted the presentation for this award, and continue to do the innovative police work that earned it.

The community policing program is so successful because it tackles crime in a creative new way—giving police the flexibility to work within communities to find the best solutions to the problems certain at-risk neighborhoods face. Rather than simply reacting to crime and pushing it out, community policing seeks to attack crime at its source—focusing on prevention, and effectively choking off the root problems that cause crime in the first place.

The department's community policing program in Green Bay's North Broadway area achieved much more than just this award. Police calls dropped 25 percent from 1997 to 1998, and they're down a whopping 58 percent since 1993. This impressive reduction means so much more than any award could ever express. This success story means local residents and businesses have experienced a genuine and dramatic improvement in their quality of life and work. The officers involved, the Green Bay P.D. and the entire community can be proud of this extraordinary accomplishment.

A TRIBUTE TO ROGER DURBIN

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our World War II veterans remind us of a time when our country stood united in the pursuit of independence and liberty, whether it be for others on foreign soil, or here at home. Twelve years ago, Roger Durbin, my constituent and a World War II combat veteran, asked me why there was no national monument to honor those who served in this war. Legislation I sponsored and Congress passed will rectify that grievous oversight. However, until the memorial is completed, a new postage stamp will serve to recognize those contributing to the war effort. I am inserting in today's RECORD

the following speech by Roger Durbin, documenting the bravery of those who served and celebrating the release of the new stamp in their honor.

AN ADDRESS BY ROGER DURBIN CELEBRATING THE STAMP UNVEILING, NOVEMBER 19, 1998

Mr. Vice-President, Mr. Postmaster General, General Woerner, thank you for allowing me to share this honor with you today.

It's a double honor for me to participate in a ceremony to unveil a stamp commemorating World War II. In 1979, I retired from the U.S. Postal Service after spending 32 years as a rural carrier in Berkey, Ohio, near Toledo. I've been told that I am that last surviving member of branch 4408 of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

I am proud of my career as a letter carrier. But today, on the eve of Veteran's Day my thoughts are focused on a different uniform—one I wore in Europe in the 1940s. I was a member of the Tenth Armored Division and participated in the Battle of the Bulge, one of the costliest battles ever fought by Americans. I have memories of those cold bitter days that will be with me until I die.

One memory I wish to share with you is about the Battle for Metz. It was the first time Metz had been captured in 1,500 years. Three bridges had to be built to cross the Mozells River at Thionville, France, while the 4th and 90th Infantry established a bridgehead. They met a terrible resistance. During the night, civilians pointed out to the Germans where the Americans were sleeping. By morning, only one man was still alive from the German counter-attack. Later history called this attack the "Killing Fields of Kerling."

When daylight came, it was a terrible sight—a sight that cannot be forgotten by those who saw it. The American dead were neatly stacked in the ditches like cords of wood. The German dead were in their foxholes, eyes wide open still keeping their vigil of surveillance. The retreating Germans had body-trapped their dead. They had to be removed by our engineers. Right then I decided that those Germans were really trying to kill me.

"Saving Private Ryan" has brought attention to the horror of war to those born since World War II ended. The D-Day depicted was but one battle. Six hundred thousand American soldiers fought in the Battle of the Bulge. There were 91,000 casualties in just 30 days. The bitterness of that 1944 December cold cannot be forgotten. A wounded, bleeding soldier could be dead and frozen solid in just three hours. It was so cold that on Christmas night I had lain on top of the half-track transmission in an effort to get warm.

We moved back east of Metz after the battle had ended to draw new equipment and to get replacements. The replacements were eighteen and nineteen year old boys that had been home with families for Christmas dinner in 1944.

Those of us in the Tenth Armored Division who survived the Battle of the Bulge had the honor of being the first American soldiers from Patton's Third Army to cross the German border. The Tenth seized 450 towns and cities and earned more than 3,000 medals. But it was achieved at a terrible cost. When finished, the Tenth Armored had 8,381 killed, wounded, and missing casualties. There was a 78.5 percent turnover of personnel.

As a nation we must never forget that cost.

The stamp we are unveiling today commemorates World War II as one of the most significant events of the Twentieth Century. It is a fitting tribute for all who were in-

involved in this struggle for a way of life, a world. This was the war that had the involvement of almost the entire population.

Three years ago I had the honor of joining President Clinton in dedicating a World War II Memorial site on the Mall between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. We sprinkled sacred soil from sixteen overseas American cemeteries in which are buried thousands of Americans who were not as fortunate as I am. They never made it home.

Ground is to be broken in 2000 and the memorial dedicated in 2002. When Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur started the memorial legislation eleven years ago there were 13.5 million living World War II veterans. An average of 30,000 World War II veterans now die each month. Only 7 million remain of those alive twelve years ago. For most of those now remaining, this stamp will be the nation's tribute to their service.

LOPEZ FOODS, INC.—MBE  
MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Lopez, an Arizona native and Hispanic-American leader. Recently, Mr. Lopez' company, Lopez Foods, Inc., was named the 1999 National Minority Manufacturing Firm of the Year by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

After beginning his career as an owner-operator of several McDonald's restaurants, seven years ago, Mr. Lopez sold them and obtained controlling interest of the company that now bears his name: Lopez Foods, Inc. As one of the select few beef and pork suppliers for McDonald's restaurants, this Oklahoma City company plays a vital role in the success of more than 25,000 McDonald's restaurants.

As the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Lopez Foods, Mr. Lopez has guided his company to great success. Under Mr. Lopez' leadership, this firm has steadily expanded their workforce diversity program. As a result, currently, nearly 55 percent of Lopez Foods employees are minorities. Because of his efforts, first as a McDonald's owner-operator, and now as the head of Lopez Foods, Mr. Lopez was selected by the National Hispanic Employee's Association as its 1997 Entrepreneur of the Year.

Throughout his career, Mr. Lopez has worked tirelessly to promote economic progress for minorities well beyond his own firm. He is a member of several influential boards, including: the McDonald's Supplier Diversity Council, the Oklahoma City Latino Community Development Agency, the National Advisory Board of the Hispanic American Commitment to Educational Resources, and the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

I applaud the Commerce Department for recognizing the outstanding efforts of Mr. John Lopez, and for designating Lopez Foods, Inc. as its 1999 National Minority Manufacturing Firm of the Year. In closing, I commend this