

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DORREN-  
BACHER—A GREAT AMERICAN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I wish to take this moment to recognize the remarkable life and significant achievements of a leading civic servant, John Dorrenbacher. Tragically, John died in his home Monday, November 8, 1999. While family, friends and colleagues remember the truly exceptional life of John, I, too, would like to pay tribute to this remarkable man.

For the last 18 years, John ran the computers and books for the Colorado Republican Party. In his time at the party, he was a pioneer of the mailing list. In the earliest days of computers, he mastered integrating information to create better mailing lists. With this advancement, those who John served were able to do targeted mailings, therefore better contacting constituents and ultimately, better serving the people. There may not be a Colorado Republican in legislative or statewide office today who wasn't helped by a mailing list generated by John. Amazingly, John managed to serve five very different Republican chairman. In addition, he once served as Boulder County GOP chairman.

Although his professional accomplishments will long be remembered and admired, most who knew him well will remember John Dorrenbacher, above all else, as someone who loved his country and had a deep faith in our democracy. It is clear that the multitude of those who, like me, have come to know John as a friend will be worse off in his absence. However, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that, in spite of this profound loss, the family and friends of John Dorrenbacher can take solace in the knowledge that each is a better person for having known him.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. DAISY BATES

**HON. EARL F. HILLIARD**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to with a great sense of twoness—one as an American and another as an American to honor death of my mentor and friend, Mrs. Daisy Bates. Her death last Friday comes prematurely as we honor Congressional Gold Medals to the men and women, known as the Little Rock Nine, that she shepherded into Central High School against the will of a racist Governor and white neighbors. She worked for many years in the NAACP and with the Democratic National Committee to educate and register voters. In 1987, the City of Little Rock paid tribute to her work by naming an elementary school in her honor. Her life is a celebration of progress and shows us how man in his quest for justice, is determined and cannot be deterred. Her sacrifices to tear down the walls of prejudice and injustice through education and voter registration will go ahead, whether

we accept it or not. Daisy Bates' life, along with the life of other Civil Rights Movement heroes, showcases how overcoming racism in this country has become one of the greatest adventures of all time. But, it is an adventure that must be overcome.

Today as I lift up Daisy Bates, I acknowledge that there is new knowledge to be gained, new rights to be won for the progress of not just African Americans, but all Americans. Whether this country likes it or not, there will come a day when the position of pre-eminence for the United States will not rest on the human rights it has obtained for others across the world, but the rights and dignity she has bestowed upon her own citizens.

Our forefathers made certain that this country would ride the first waves of the industrial revolution, the first waves of modern invention, the first waves of nuclear power, and the first waves of equality under the law. Unfortunately, we have not yet ridden the wave for equal justice and must struggle to once again be a part of it and lead it. The eyes of the world now look unto us for the banner of freedom and peace.

So, today, as I honor my mentor for her work and undying courage, I challenge my brothers and sisters across the world to begin establishing their lives, like Daisy Bates as instruments of knowledge and understanding.

IN HONOR OF THE SOKOL GREAT-  
ER CLEVELAND'S NEW ATHLETIC  
FACILITY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the grand opening of the Czech Cultural Center of Sokol Greater Cleveland's new athletic, a state-of-the-art expansion to the historic Bohemian National Hall.

After considerable planning and construction, the new facility opening this month will provide a variety of health, fitness, leisure, and cultural activities to everyone in the community. In the tradition of the American Sokol Organization, the Czech Cultural Center of Sokol Greater Cleveland's new athletic facility will provide Cleveland citizens with the opportunity to strengthen both their physical and mental character allowing them to enhance their celebration of life and vitality. With membership open to the community, this new facility is sure to provide Cleveland citizens with an opportunity to cultivate a harmonious and total person.

The Czech Cultural Center of Sokol Greater Cleveland's new athletic facility promises to be a popular place for fitness enthusiasts who will enjoy the volleyball, gymnasium, cardio-conditioning area and strength training center. Additionally, the facility will serve as a center for community development where both young and older generations can display their abilities and knowledge in dance and gymnastic performances. In short, the health and quality of life for everyone in Cleveland will improve greatly with the opening of this new facility.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing dedication of the Czech Cultural Cen-

ter of Sokol Greater Cleveland for building this new athletic facility for the benefit of the Cleveland community.

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN RE-  
GARDING ARMED CONFLICT IN  
NORTH CAUCASUS REGION OF  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 1999*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 206. This resolution expresses the sense of the Congress urging all parties involved in the conflict, to cease the indiscriminate use of force against civilian population in Chechnya. In addition this measure calls on all sides in this conflict to enter into a constructive dialogue under the auspicious of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This group was successful in brokering a settlement to end the 1994–1996 war.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this region as once before experienced the horrors of war. As the 1994–1996 Russo-Chechen war resulted in the massive use of force against civilians, causing immense human casualties, human rights violations, large-scale displacement of individuals, and the destruction of property. In recent months this conflict has been renewed as forces in Chechnya have mounted armed incursions into the Russian Federation of Dagestan and have committed bombing in Moscow.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must insist that all parties in this conflict resolve this situation peacefully, with complete respect to the human rights of all the citizens of the Russian Federation. We must also insist that all parties commit themselves to allowing humanitarian assistance to the victims caught in the middle of this conflict.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support and the considerable weight of this body on all sides involved in this conflict.

HONORING DON SCOGGINS

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today in recognition of Don W. Scoggins, president of the Texas Eastman Division of Eastman Chemical Company in Longview, Texas, who is retiring this year after 37 years of service at Texas Eastman.

Mr. Scoggins joined Texas Eastman in 1962 as a Mechanical Engineer in the Plastics Laboratory. He has served as a supervisor, assistant supervisor, assistant to the general superintendent, senior mechanical engineer, and assistant superintendent of various divisions at Texas Eastman. He also served Eastman Chemical in Kingsport, Tennessee, in a variety of capacities before returning to Texas Eastman as director of Administration. He was

named manager of Operations in 1989, became a vice president in 1990 and was named president in 1998.

Mr. Scoggins received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas. He serves on the Texas Chemical Council's Board of Directors and on the Board of Trustees at Good Shepherd Medical Center.

Texas Eastman's influence on economic development and community causes in Longview has been enormous, and the employees and administrators at Texas Eastman—like Don Scoggins—have played a significant role in those accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Don Scoggins for his contributions to Texas Eastman Division and to his community—and to wish him well in his retirement.

I am especially privileged in that Don's mother and father live in my hometown of Rockwall. They are, like Don, strong and loved members of the First United Methodist Church. They teach, direct, entertain, and lead us in both the Sunday School class and in the overall direction of our religious activities.

As we adjourn today—the last day of this century that the United States House of Representatives is in session—let us adjourn on this signal day in respect and admiration for Don Scoggins.

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INTRODUCTION OF TWO BILLS TO  
REDUCE TAXES ON SOCIAL SECURITY  
BENEFITS

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with Representative NITA LOWEY to announce the introduction of two bills to reduce taxes on Social Security benefits. The first bill would repeal the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits. I have always opposed this provision, and I believe that it is now time to repeal this tax on our Nation's seniors.

The 1993 economic plan imposed additional taxation on the benefits of single social security recipients with incomes over \$34,000, and on married recipients with joint incomes over \$44,000 by including, in each case, 85 percent of Social Security benefits in taxable income. At the time, proponents of the tax increase said it was necessary to reduce to deficit. Remember the atrocious national debt had risen from \$800 billion in 1981 to more than \$4 trillion in 1993. The annual deficit, which was almost \$300 billion a year in 1992, was projected to increase to \$500 billion a year later in the decade. We passed a tough economic plan, the economy improved, and the deficit was eliminated.

I believed it was unfair to tax seniors on their social security benefits to reduce the deficit, and, therefore, I joined with Representative NITA LOWEY in offering a bill which would have repealed the provision immediately and taken other steps to reduce the deficit. We demonstrated that you could still reduce the deficit without increasing taxes on social secu-

urity benefits. Now that 6 years have passed and the deficit has been transformed into a surplus, it is more important than ever that we abolish this unnecessary tax on seniors. So, again, I am joining with Representative NITA LOWEY to abolish this unfair tax on social security benefits. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and work toward its swift passage.

Mr. Speaker, if we are unable to implement this bill quickly, then the very least we should do is adjust the 1993 income threshold to take into account the rise in the cost of living. That is why I am also announcing the introduction of another tax relief bill for our seniors, which should be implemented immediately. Again, I am proud to work with Representative NITA LOWEY to advance this effort.

This bill would ensure that we do not inadvertently tax more and more seniors with relatively less income every year. Under current law, the income levels that were set in 1993 were not adjusted for cost of living increases. As a result, more and more people are having their social security benefits taxes. This is unfair and unnecessary. So, this second bill would require the 1993 level to be adjusted on an annual basis to take account for the rise in the cost of living. I am hopeful that we can build strong bipartisan support for this legislation and work together to ease the tax burden on our Nation's seniors. I urge all of my colleagues to support these two tax cut measures.

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THE TRAGEDY OF THE S.S.  
"LEOPOLDVILLE"

**HON. RONNIE SHOWS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a minute to tell my colleagues and the American People about a pitch-black night on Christmas Eve in 1944 during one of the darkest hours of World War II. A Belgian troop transport, the S.S. *Leopoldville*, was sunk by a German U-Boat, taking the lives of 802 American soldiers. The *Leopoldville* was part of a crossing of the English Channel for the Battle of the Bulge. 2,235 American Soldiers were being carried to this historic battle.

The *Leopoldville* was torpedoed and sunk 5½ miles from Cherbourg, France. The result was a horrific loss of lives—almost one-third of the 66th Infantry Division was killed. 493 bodies were never recovered from the cold and murky waters of the English Channel. Most of the soldiers who died were young Americans, from 18 to 20 years old, barely out of High School. These young men came from 46 out of the 48 states that were part of the Union at that time.

Sadly, this tragic story has been a mere footnote in the history books of World War II. Their efforts to preserve and sustain Democracy must be remembered. Their lives must not be vainly forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in remembering and honoring those who gave their lives that we might be free today. The young men aboard the S.S. *Leopoldville*, those who perished and those

who survived, were part of an American force that advanced Democracy and forever changed the world. They went because their country called. They sacrificed because their way of life was threatened. They rose to incredible heights of courage because their faith and resolve mandated no less.

My friend and fellow-Mississippian, Sid Spiro, was on the S.S. *Leopoldville*. Mr. Spiro, after the direct torpedo hit, lowered himself in the freezing water by a rope. And for three hours he floated and waited for help. The water was freezing and he nearly died. He was 19 years old then. Today, he and other survivors often gather to remember and commemorate their fellow Americans who died. I am in awe of these men. And I want Sid and all of them to know of my admiration and respect.

These young men, forever part of our national memory, must be honored. We must never forget. I salute the survivors of the S.S. *Leopoldville* and I honor the memory of those who gave their lives.

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INTRODUCTION OF EXPEDITED  
RESCISSION LEGISLATION

**HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that will give the President an important tool to control spending by identifying low priority and wasteful spending that can be eliminated. The legislation I am introducing today, known as modified line item veto or expedited rescission legislation, would strengthen the ability of Presidents to identify and eliminate low-priority budget items with the support of a majority in Congress.

Under this legislation the President would be able to single out individual items in tax or spending legislation and send a rescission package to Congress. The President would have the option of earmarking savings from proposed rescissions to deficit reduction by proposing that the discretionary spending caps be reduced by the amount of the rescissions. Congress would be required to vote up or down on the package under an expedited procedure. Members could offer motions to remove individual items from the package by majority vote if their motion was supported by fifty members. The spending items would be eliminated or the tax item would be repealed if a majority of Congress approves the rescission package. If the rescission bill is defeated in either House the funds for any proposed rescission would be spent or the tax item would take effect.

This legislation embodies an idea which many Members, both Democrats and Republicans, have worked on for several years. Dan Quayle first introduced expedited rescission legislation in 1985. Tom Carper and DICK ARMEY did yeomen's work in pushing this legislation for several years. On the Democratic side, TIM JOHNSON, Dan Glickman, Tim Penny and L.F. Payne were particularly effective advocates of this legislation for years. Numerous Republicans, including Lynn Martin, Bill Frenzel, Gerald Solomon, Harris Fawell and others