

The United States is the beacon of freedom to the world. As such, we cannot sit idly by and watch India trample on the religious freedom of its minorities. We should put this Congress on record in support of peaceful, democratic freedom movements in South Asia and throughout the world.

The United States recently allowed Puerto Rico to vote on its status; our Canadian neighbors held a similar referendum in Quebec. When do the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, and the other peoples living under Indian rule get their chance to exercise this basic democratic right? Will we support democratic freedom for the people of South Asia, or will we look away while the tyranny of the majority continues to suppress fundamental rights like freedom of religion?

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIBERTY DOLLAR BILL ACT

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege of attending Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Virginia and participating in their presentation of the Liberty Dollar Bill Act. This is the finest presentation I have ever witnessed by a group of high school and middle school students.

The Liberty Dollar Bill Act would redesign the one dollar note and place an abbreviated version of the Constitution on its reverse side. It is a real tragedy that an overwhelming majority of Americans cannot name the liberties granted them in the Constitution. The Liberty Dollar Bill is important because it would teach Americans the framework of American Government and the liberties of freedom found in the Constitution. It would spread the ideals of representative democracy around the world and allow U.S. soldiers stationed abroad to read, show, and teach the ideal for which they are willing to give their lives. The Liberty Dollar Bill would ensure that we leave our government in good condition for our posterity and honor the Constitution as an American symbol.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I reintroduce the Liberty Dollar Bill Act today on behalf of the students at Patrick Henry High School, Liberty Middle School, their teacher Randy Wright, and forty Members of Congress.

MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today I come before the House of Representatives to wish a happy 100th birthday to Mt. Rainier National Park in the 8th Congressional District in the state of Washington. Like many others from Washington, I am tempted to say "my moun-

tain" because that's how we all feel about Mt. Rainier—it belongs to each of us. It also gives the 8th district distinction as the most beautiful district in the nation.

Mt. Rainier National Park was established March 2, 1899 as our fifth national park. The park itself encompasses 378 square miles. At its highest point, the mountain is 14,411 feet, so it's not surprising that more than 2 million people visit the park each year to enjoy its moist rainforest, giant old growth forests, sub-alpine meadows, and glaciers.

But Rainier is more than just a national park. It is an integral part of the network of communities that surround its boundaries and form a gateway that visitors pass through when visiting the area. These communities support the park and the park supports them.

It would be hard to imagine many people in Washington who can't go through their personal or family photo albums and find pictures of themselves with friends or family during a visit to the mountain. And every one of those photos tells a story. It is so with my family. Our family and friends all grew up in the shadow of "our" mountain spending time in a cabin near Greenwater and venturing into the park many times during every season.

It was always amazing to me that for all the trails we hiked, streams we crossed, picnics we enjoyed, glaciers we climbed, it was new and different every time. We never tired of "our" mountain. I can't imagine I ever will. As a Member of Congress, I have been given the opportunity to see the park and mountain from a different vantage point. Rather than just a visitor, I am now an active partner in helping to maintain the park and protect it for future generations.

The theme of the centennial celebration is "A Century of Resource Stewardship." To underscore this theme, the park has undertaken a series of signature projects. These include the Sunrise Ecological Restoration Project, rehabilitation of the White River Patrol Cabin, and completion of the last mile of the Wonderland Trail.

In February, Northwest Airlines began airing a special video about the Mt. Rainier Centennial that airs on international flights landing at Sea Tac Airport. Today, the celebration begins with a birthday cake and a ceremony to announce a collectible cancelled stamp at Longmire in the park. I am honored to participate in this ceremony kicking off the official celebration.

Throughout this year the centennial committee has planned exciting projects and activities to celebrate the park's 100th birthday. For instance, the Tacoma/Pierce County Visitor and Convention Bureau and the gateway communities have joined together to host several special weekends of festivals and activities, and renowned mountain climber, Lou Whittaker, is leading a special "Centennial Climb" to the summit of Mt. Rainier. Lou's climbing group will include international mountain climbers as well as celebrities who have climbed with Lou in the past.

My colleagues, if you haven't made vacation plans or visited Mt. Rainier National Park before, this is surely the time to come to Washington and join us in our celebration. And, perhaps on your way up to the park or while you're enjoying a latte somewhere in Seattle,

you will have that special experience that separates us in Washington from the rest of the world. You or someone you're with may look South to the horizon and say, "Look! The mountain is out today!"

IRA EXPANSION NEEDED

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, the current tax system has many problems, but one of its main defects is its bias against personal saving. Personal saving is taxed once out of income, and then the return to saving is taxed once again. This multiple taxation penalizes personal saving, a major source of economic growth. So it is no surprise that America has one of the lowest personal savings rates in the world.

This bias can be addressed by increasing the tax deduction for IRA contributions, currently set at \$2,000 annually. Today I am introducing legislation to boost IRA deduction limits \$500 per year over several years. When fully phased in, a middle class family could deduct up to \$7,000 for an annual IRA contribution. I strongly urge that an increase in IRA deductions be a part of any tax relief plan offered in this Congress.

An increase in IRA deductions would help middle class families save for the future, become more financially independent, and become better able to deal with unexpected events. Expanded IRAs would also give middle class families a greater stake in the U.S. economic system. It is a tax incentive that average Americans would understand and strongly support.

An increase in IRA deductions would increase personal saving, a major source of investment and economic growth. This would help firms to supply their workers with the best and most advanced tools, thus increasing their productivity and income. The current treatment of saving in our tax code is literally counterproductive. This is hampering our economy over the long term and reducing the American standard of living relative to what it would otherwise be.

Many in Washington bemoan the low savings rate, but if we want personal saving to increase, we should increase IRA deductions for middle class taxpayers. A tax code that penalizes saving and investment makes no sense. Middle class taxpayers need a means of addressing their responsibilities to save for retirement, higher education, medical expenses and long term care, and unemployment. My legislation provides for penalty-free withdrawals for these purposes. Federal tax policy should not discriminate against taxpayers willing and able to take on these responsibilities but are prevented from doing so by the destructive impact of the current tax system. Let's limit the tax discrimination against personal saving.

March 2, 1999

LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS COMMERCIAL AND SUBSISTENCE FISHING TO CONTINUE IN GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, along with identical legislation being introduced in the Senate by Senators MURKOWSKI and STEVENS, to allow commercial and subsistence fishing to continue in Glacier Bay National Park.

In 1978, the National Park Service made a determination that commercial fishing activities were incompatible with National Park Service resources and would be permitted only when specifically authorized by law. Because of this broad determination, the National Park Service developed a rule outlawing commercial and subsistence fishing within the waters of Glacier Bay National Park in 1997.

This broad determination by the National Park Service ignores the fact that commercial fishing has taken place in the waters of Glacier Bay even before the National Park Service took control of the Bay in 1925. Alaskan Natives have fished in this Bay since the 1700's. Non-Native commercial fishing began in the 1880's. In addition, under the Glacier Bay National Park General Management Plan, put into place in 1984, commercial fishing was allowed. Why has the Park Service suddenly now determined that there is some threat to Park resources?

Both the salmon and crab fisheries found off the coast of Alaska and in Glacier Bay National Park, even in Federal waters, are managed by the State of Alaska not the Federal government. There is no resource problem in these fisheries or within the boundaries of the Park. The halibut resource in this area is managed through an international treaty and scientists with both the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the International Halibut Commission have found that there is no problem with the halibut resource in this area. In 1990, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance sued the National Park Service claiming that commercial fishing was statutorily prohibited within the Park. In March 1997, the Federal appeals court (U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals) ruled that commercial fishing was not statutorily prohibited in the Park, except for in wilderness areas. If there is no resource problem within the Glacier Bay National Park boundaries, then commercial and subsistence fishing activities should not be prohibited by broad National Park Service policies drafted in Washington, D.C.

The determination banning commercial and subsistence fishing within Glacier Bay National Park made no sense and was a political decision that will take away the livelihood of a large number of fishermen and will affect the well being of a number of communities which rely on the fishing industry. A ban on commercial fishing will affect not only fishermen, but will also have a huge effect on processing companies including a Native owned and operated processing plant in Kake, which buys much of its seafood from vessels which fish in

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Glacier Bay. A ban on commercial fishing in Glacier Bay will affect 416 crew and permit holders from Gustavus, Elfin Cove, Hoonah, and Pelican and affect employment opportunities for 613 employed in the seafood industry in these four towns alone. This ban will have a huge economic effect on this region. All of the fishing operations in the Park boundaries are small businesses—there are no large fishing vessels fishing in the Park and no factory trawlers fish here.

Last year, a group of stakeholders including commercial fishing industry representatives, Alaskan Natives, local processing companies, local and national environmental representatives, the State of Alaska, and Park Service personnel met to work out details of an agreement which would allow commercial fishing to continue. The stakeholders had not come to a resolution and because there was no resolution, language was put in the Interior Appropriations legislation to prevent the National Park Service from publishing final rules until the stakeholder group could reach an agreement; however, the National Park Service and national environmental groups made this a national environmental priority and prevented the stakeholder process from concluding.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will reverse this unjust and unscientific National Park Service policy and allow commercial and subsistence fishing to continue in the non-wilderness waters of Glacier Bay National Park. It clarifies that the State of Alaska will continue to manage marine fishery resources within the Park's boundaries. It will also provide compensation to those who have been displaced by any closures within the Park or by actions of any Federal agency which interferes with any person legally fishing in Park waters.

Even with commercial fisheries operating in the Park, Glacier Bay National Park was the number one destination in the National Park Service system last year. Commercial fishing poses no threat to the "park experience" and in fact many visitors consider seeing fishing vessels as a positive experience in the Park.

Mr. Speaker, there is no fishery resource problem in the Park and there is no justification for a complete closure of Glacier Bay National Park to commercial or subsistence fishing. This legislation will right a wrong and continue to allow these practices to continue in Glacier Bay National Park in a well managed and sustainable manner.

PRITCHETT HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM HONORED

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pritchett High School girls basketball team on their Class A District 3 Championship.

The Pritchett players, led by Coach Tom Gooden, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique

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combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Pritchett High School girls basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 3 Championship.

12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS HONORED BY U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor five high schools within my Congressional district that have been identified as Outstanding High Schools by U.S. News and World Report . . . De La Salle Collegiate in Warren, Henry Ford II in Sterling Heights, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic in Warren, Troy High School and Troy Athens High School in Troy.

U.S. News & World Report, in conjunction with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, reviewed 1,053 high schools in six major metropolitan areas and singled out examples that can serve as models of excellence for communities across the nation. Ninety six schools were cited as examples of outstanding institutions where students progress steadily toward high academic standards and where every student matters.

The five schools that were honored shared several key traits including high academic standards, a core curriculum, highly qualified teachers, strong mentoring for new teachers, partnerships between parents and schools, administrators and teachers who know each child and high attendance rates.

Each school also demonstrated high academic achievement as defined by the NORC. The NORC's "value-added approach" measured each school's performance only after taking its students' family circumstances into account, thus identifying schools that do an outstanding job with the students they have, regardless of their socio-economic background.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these five schools, De La Salle Collegiate, Henry Ford II, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic, Troy High School and Troy Athens High School and to congratulate their administrators, faculty, students and parents for their dedication and hard work. I wish them continued success as they continue to take care of our nation's greatest asset, our young people.