

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REMOVE THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND AND MEDICARE OFF-BUDGET

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, over the years, the Federal Government has raided the Social Security trust fund and Medicare and diverted the money earmarked for retirement and medical benefits to a host of other programs. This would be bad enough if Social Security faced no financial crisis. But the program is projected to start running cash-flow shortages around 2013, which makes the misuse of the trust fund unconscionable. I have recently introduced legislation calling for a constitutional amendment to remove the Social Security trust fund and Medicare off-budget. I encourage each of my colleagues to support this measure.

Supporters of the Social Security accounting system claim the trust fund is in fine shape, storing the surpluses in a massive fund that will ensure that benefit checks keep flowing until 2032. The truth is when Social Security's costs exceed tax receipts, the Government will have to raise taxes and/or borrow more money to help pay benefits.

Since 1983, Social Security has collected more in taxes than it spends on benefits and other costs. This year, the payroll tax surplus will total about \$52 billion. By 2007, the cumulative surplus is estimated to be \$435 billion.

In the past, these funds have been spent on everything from defense to welfare. In return, the trust fund has been issued nonmarketable Treasury bonds, which are merely promises to repay the money with interest at a later date in time. In short, IOU's from the Government to itself. To date, the IOU's in the trust fund total over \$800 billion.

The best and only way to shield the Social Security and Medicare trust funds from spending raids is to exclude their funds from Federal budget calculations. Currently, several bills have been introduced that would do just that. However, none of those bills call for amending the U.S. Constitution to ensure that raiding the fund is impossible.

The fundamental goal of the Social Security and Medicare programs is ultimately to guarantee savings and medical coverage for retirees. The Federal Government has made a contract with the American people. Let's show that we are serious about addressing the retirement system's long term solvency problem. Again, I urge each member to support this constitutional amendment.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN JOSLIN AND ROGER BISHOP

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the humanitarian acts of Justin Joslin and Roger Bishop, two students of Sandia High School in Albuquerque, NM.

In November 1998 these two young men were driving around after school when they saw a slow-moving vehicle veer dangerously across oncoming traffic toward houses. The driver of this vehicle appeared passed out, her head tipped back against the seat. Without exchanging a word, both young men sprang into action to stop the car, saving the woman and possibly others, from injury. Justin stopped his car, and he and Roger jumped out and ran along opposite sides of the other vehicle. Roger grabbed the passenger's door, which was locked and Justin grabbed the drivers' door and was able to jump in. Justin pressed on the brake and put the vehicle in park. The 66-year-old driver had apparently fallen unconscious. She was treated at a local hospital and released.

Too many times we hear of bad news in our communities or situations that could have concluded better if someone would have acted with concern and compassion as these young men did. Justin Joslin and Roger Bishop showed that they care about others and are willing to act in a humanitarian way when they see a need.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES DOLAN

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sgt. First Class James Dolan, of Jonestown, PA, who recently earned the title of Soldier of the Year for the Pennsylvania National Guard. SFC Dolan, who serves full-time at Fort Indiantown Gap in Annville, is the assistant inspector general for the PA Army National Guard.

This award is well-earned by an individual who carries himself with great professionalism and distinction in the finest traditions of our country's military history. The noncommissioned officers corps serves as the backbone of the army, and the benchmark that SFC Dolan has set is emblematic of the lofty standards traditionally set by our nation's noncommissioned officers. In order to achieve this honor, SFC Dolan was interviewed by evaluation boards who ranked his technical profi-

ciency, leadership skills, and military knowledge and bearing.

This award was given to an excellent soldier who has maintained a brilliant military record. In addition to the almost 13 years he has spent in the National Guard, he served for 4 years in the Marine Corps, enlisting after graduating from high school. Despite his success, SFC Dolan remains modest, citing the exemplary work of other Pennsylvania Guardsmen. He is in quite a good position to determine the proficiency of his colleagues, as it is his duty to inspect unit readiness throughout the state. In this capacity, he helps review a third of the National Guard every year.

SFC Dolan, in the true spirit of the minuteman, initially joined the same National Guard unit in which his father served. He currently lives with his wife, Vincenta, who is also a member of the PA Guard, and their 10-month old daughter, Kaitlin.

The honor of the title of Soldier of the Year is a great one. That the award is in such good hands bodes well for the future of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The people of Pennsylvania can feel secure in the knowledge that men and women like SFC Dolan are working for them. It is an honor to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING COLORADO GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL 3A CHAMPIONS—EATON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Eaton High School girls basketball team on their impressive State 3A Championship. The victory, a hard fought 50-47 win over Pagosa Springs High School, was a thrilling contest between two talented and deserving teams. In championship competition, though, one team must emerge victorious, and Eaton proved themselves the best in their class—truly second to none.

The State 3A Championship is the highest achievement in high school basketball. This coveted trophy symbolizes more than just the team and its coach, Bob Ervin, as it also represents the staunch support of the players' families, fellow students, school personnel and the community. From now on, these people can point to the 1998-1999 girls basketball team with pride, and know they were part of a remarkable athletic endeavor. Indeed, visitors to this town and school will see a sign proclaiming the Girls State 3A Championship, and know something special had taken place there.

The Eaton basketball squad is a testament to the old adage that the team wins games,

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