

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CAPITAL GAINS TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1999

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the "Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act." As with similar legislation I introduced last year, this bill would simplify the computation of capital gains taxes for all individual taxpayers and provide modest capital gains tax reductions for millions of Americans.

As recent articles in *The Wall Street Journal* and *Money* magazine have observed, the 1040 Form's Schedule D has become very burdensome for ordinary taxpayers as they attempt to comply with the current capital gains tax law. Filling out Schedule D is disproportionately burdensome for low- and moderate-income taxpayers whose only capital gains come from investments in mutual funds and real estate investment trusts. It has been estimated that nearly half of all U.S. households now own mutual funds.

The IRS estimates that a typical taxpayer with a capital gain will spend 6 hours and 41 minutes filling out his or her 54-line Schedule D form. That is over 3 hours more than in 1994. In addition to the amount of time involved, the chances of making an error in filling out this form have increased with its increased complexity. Elimination of the 18-month holding period last year did little or nothing to eliminate the complexity of Schedule D. If nothing is done to change the tax code, the complexity of Schedule D will get even worse in 2001 and again in 2006, when additional capital gains tax rate categories will take effect; these future changes in Schedule D will make the 1998 version look simple in comparison. Finally, increasingly large numbers of taxpayers will have to fill out Schedule D twice—once for the regular tax and once for the minimum tax.

The Internal Revenue Service's new national Taxpayer Advocate, Val Oveson, agrees that capital gains simplification is needed. In his January report to Congress, he cited the capital gains reporting requirements in Schedule D as an example of unnecessary complexity faced by taxpayers with capital gains income from mutual funds.

Under the legislation that I am introducing today, the current complicated system of different capital gains tax rates would be replaced with a simple 38 percent exclusion. The bill would also change the taxation of collectibles so that any gain or loss from the sale or exchange of a collectible would be treated as a short-term capital gain or loss. Consistent with the treatment of capital gains under current law, the tax rates that apply to capital gains income for regular tax purposes would also apply for alternative minimum tax purposes.

Under my bill, low- and moderate-income taxpayers who invest through mutual funds and real estate investment trusts would no longer have to fill out even a simplified capital gain schedule. Rather than filling in 35 separate lines of information and making a number of confusing, error-prone calculations—as required under current law—they would simply total up their capital gains distributions, figure out what 62 percent of that total would be, and then write that amount on the appropriate line of their tax return form.

This bill would simplify income tax preparation for millions of Americans, and I believe that it would do so at no cost to the U.S. Treasury. While the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) has not yet determined the revenue impact of the bill I am introducing today, JCT estimated last year that nearly identical legislation would actually have raised revenue over a ten-year period.

Congress should act this year to make the tax code less complex—and less burdensome—for the American taxpayer. The Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act would go a long way toward achieving that goal.

Several of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee—including Representatives RANGEL, MATSUI, McDERMOTT, LEWIS, and NEAL—have joined me in introducing this legislation. I urge all of my House colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this important tax simplification bill.

A TRIBUTE TO DEAN PRESTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's esteemed reporters, Dean Preston (the recently retired agricultural reporter for *The Pueblo Chieftain*). In doing so, I would like to honor this man who, for many years, combined hard work and knowledge with his own special personal touch. An individual with so much integrity and compassion will be truly missed and difficult to replace.

Beginning his career with *The Pueblo Chieftain* over 28 years ago, Dean Preston learned and experienced various positions before deciding on a career as an agricultural reporter. What began as a "gamble" by the city editor, led Preston to an area of reporting very suitable to him. Growing up on a dry land farm in the Texas Panhandle, Preston had gained an understanding of this type of agriculture. Preston's knowledge of Colorado agriculture was second to none, however, I think all would agree that it was his dedication to the people that made him so unique. He was known to make personal visits to check on crops, regardless of the time and miles it required to get there.

During the time Dean Preston spent reporting and editing for *The Pueblo Chieftain*, he received several awards, one of which was "Agriculture Champion" given by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. Additionally, Preston has recently received honors from the Pueblo County Farm Bureau.

After 28½ years of service to *The Pueblo Chieftain*, City of Pueblo, and the surrounding areas, Dean Preston begins down a new avenue in life. Few have displayed the dedication and genuine interest that Dean Preston is being honored for, thus I wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE AND THE CENTER FOR ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the School of the Future as it celebrates the opening of the new Center for Ethics and Technology.

This innovative educational facility, located in the heart of my district, is aptly named: it does a remarkable job in preparing our city's children for the future. An astounding 98 percent of the School's graduates were accepted to colleges and major universities in 1998.

The School places an emphasis on providing students with a strong liberal arts education. It aims to produce students who are not only culturally literate, but who have well-developed analytical skills. Students are trained to examine evidence, explore alternate points of view, consider significance, understand point of view and seek connections in all of their learnings.

The new Center for Ethics and Technology strives to create a sense of balance and responsibility in our increasingly technological society. Through the use of computer technology, the Center will allow participants to expand their inter-generational dialogue toward an intercultural, international exchange.

Last month, the Center invited senior citizens, computer scientists, inner city freshman and their parents to join the Anti-Defamation League at a forum to explore how our sense of community has evolved in today's high-tech world.

This Center would not have been possible if not for the dedicated volunteer work of the Center's director, Adam Kinory; the school's teachers and principal, Kathy Rehfield-Pelles; its parent body, and volunteers from The Sol Goldman 14th Street Y of The Educational Alliance, New York Cares, and Pencil.

At a time when our public school enrollments are at record levels and those numbers

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

are expected to climb further, we have an obligation to act now to shore up our public education system. The School of the Future is leading that journey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to The School of the Future as it strives to bring our public education system into the next millennium. The School's important work with New York City's children is priceless. It is an honor to have the School in my district.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ROBERT
"BOB" HUGHES

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and give honor to a Texas legend: Coach Robert "Bob" Hughes whose name is synonymous with the game of basketball. Coach Hughes has a winning reputation that stretches far beyond the great State of Texas and the mark he continues to make on the sporting culture of this great country is without argument an indelible one.

This remarkable man's career spans almost four decades. He began his career at the proud and the historic I.M. Terrell school. After the unfortunate closing of I.M. Terrell, Coach Hughes carried on his winning tradition at Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School where he continues coaching today and is an exemplar of integrity and sportsmanship. Among his many outstanding accomplishments: 19 district championships, 3 State championships, Coach of the Year 22 times. He has been featured in Sports Illustrated, and seen on the CNN. He also has more wins than any other high school coach in America at 1,120 and counting.

People in Fort Worth often associate Bob Hughes with his young Wildcat teams, but it needs to be noted that this man has been directly responsible for producing many of the fine business and community leaders who contribute so much to our city and country every day.

Congratulations Coach Hughes on the well-deserved honor you are receiving from Dunbar High. This is yet another momentous occasion in a life filled with them.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL COWBOY
POETRY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Sixth Annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival that took place at the historic Melody Ranch in Santa Clarita, CA. For 4 days, cowboy enthusiasts such as myself, were entertained by local residents, as well as individuals from 22 different states and 2 foreign nations.

This ranch has a significant historical background, Mr. Speaker. Once owned by Gene

Autry, the Melody Ranch was used for some of the greatest western movies featuring legendary stars such as Tom Mix, Hopalong Cassidy, Gary Cooper, John Wayne, and Ronald Reagan.

In celebration of our Western Heritage, this festival brought together communities from around the nation and around the world to my hometown to enjoy in a bygone era of cowboys, campfires, and country music. Cowboy music, poetry, and food provided everyone with what Santa Claritans know to be true, that country and western tradition are among the very best that our nation has to offer.

Whether it was the special performances at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, the mansion of silent film star William S. Hart, or the Heritage Junction Historic Park this festival can be called nothing less than an overwhelming success. I would like to applaud the organizers, the participants, and the community as a whole for their participation in this event.

Mr. Speaker, as I end these remarks and I reflect back on the Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival, I am reminded of the end of so many of the western movies that show the cowboy riding off into the sunset. We sure hope that he returns next year to make certain that future generations never forget this indispensable history.

HONORING WEBSTER HIGH
SCHOOL'S VICTORY IN THE NYS
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mrs. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a moment to call attention to the outstanding accomplishments of a dedicated team of students from the Rochester region. In March 1999, the Webster High School Science Olympiad team competed in the New York State Science Olympiad championship and finished in first place. This is the second time in 3 years that students from Webster have been victorious in this challenging and difficult competition. In addition, this year's victory is the 5th year in a row that the team has placed first or second state-wide.

The Science Olympiad focuses on confronting the critical situation of declining academic achievement in science classes nationwide. The rigorous academic competitions are dedicated towards the goals of improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. The atmosphere surrounding these events strikes a balance among science facts, concepts, skills, and applications, while simultaneously encouraging teamwork and enthusiasm. Since the first national tournament in 1985, this organization has helped to create a significant increase in student interest in science.

As members of the Student Olympiad, this group of Webster students have committed themselves to these goals. Their exemplary

performance is a clear indication of their hard work and dedication, as well as an example of their commitment to academic excellence and intellectual achievement. In March they competed against 40 high schools in 25 events focusing on topics such as biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, problem solving, and technology.

It is my distinct privilege to recognize the members of the Webster High School Science Olympiad team as residents of my district. Their accomplishments create an academic standard which all students should strive to attain. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students and the coaches on their victory in the 1999 Science Olympiad New York State championship.

HOME EDUCATION

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Missouri State Senate and Missouri House of Representatives in support of home education. The Missouri General Assembly has designated the first week of May as Home Education Week. Missouri is looked to as a leader nationwide in home education movement.

Home education in Missouri has enjoyed considerable success in recent years because of the tremendous support received from countless citizens who realize the significance of family participation in the education process. Home education allows parents to ensure that the positive character traits and moral values instilled in their children at home are reinforced by the educational process.

Home education is successful and history proves it. Since the founding of America many famous Americans have been home educated. That list includes George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Booker T. Washington, Thomas Edison, Andrew Carnegie, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mark Twain and Sandra Day O'Connor. Home education is practiced by over 4,600 citizens of Missouri.

Without hesitation, I thank each parent who is at home teaching their child the skills they will need to succeed in the competitive world we live in today. I hope that my colleagues will join me today to let you know that your efforts are generally appreciated.

HONORING McDONALD'S RESTAURANT OWNERS FOR THEIR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nearly 200 independent McDonald's Restaurant Owners of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut for launching the Arching into Education Scholarship program. These locally owned and operated restaurants have a long-standing commitment to the communities they