

Our current system also discourages savings and investment while hampering economic growth. Complying with the Federal Tax Code costs taxpayers more than \$250 billion each year. In 1991, the Tax Foundation reported that small corporations spent a minimum of \$382 in compliance costs for every \$100 they paid in income taxes.

In addition, several economists have said that replacing the current tax system will cause interest rates to go down and savings and capital investment to increase.

Right now, we have a system that stifles opportunity by picking winners and losers. It's a system in which Washington, DC, decides what is best for the American people instead of letting the people decide what is best for America.

The Federal Government simply takes too much money out of people's pockets. As recently as 1982, Americans paid only 19.9 percent of their income in taxes. New data reveals that in 1998, Americans paid 35.4 percent of their income in taxes—the highest level in history and increasing each year. In fact, Tax Freedom Day 1998 was May 10th, which means that Americans are working, on average 129 days before paying off their total tax bill. We must stop this confiscatory trend.

By embracing the principles of FREEDOM, we can create a system that is Fair and simple, that Reduces the federal bureaucracy, that Encourages savings and investment, that is Efficient, that Drives the economy, that creates Opportunity for all, and that puts More money in American pockets.

Fundamental and comprehensive tax reform will be one of the most profound and liberating changes our nation experiences. It is time for all of us—whether you support a flat tax, a consumption tax, a value-added tax, or a national sales tax—to come together and focus on our common goal: Replacing the current system. The Tax Freedom Resolution gives us the chance to do just that and at the same time restore FREEDOM to the American taxpayer.

BATTLESHIP RESOLUTION

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the esteemed crew of the battleship U.S.S. *Alabama* will hold their annual reunion in the city of Mobile, Alabama, during the third week in April. I would like to take this opportunity to express to these men the undying appreciation which their fellow Americans share for their proud service to our nation and the world.

The U.S.S. *Alabama*, a South Dakota class battleship, was built in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia. Following her commission on August 16, 1942, she was dispatched to the North Atlantic Ocean, where she and her crew proudly assisted the British Fleet in protecting convoys on the treacherous "Murmansk Run," which carried them from England through the North Sea to Russia, and brought the defending fleet into conflict with German warships and aircraft in occupied Norway.

After completing her service with the British Fleet, the U.S.S. *Alabama* was transferred to the Pacific Fleet. Her charge on the Eastern Front of the War was to provide invaluable support to U.S. ground troops, enabling them to successfully take the Caroline, Gilbert, Marianas, Marshall, and Philippine Islands, as well as Palau, New Guinea and Okinawa from the Japanese.

The distinguished service of the crew of the U.S.S. *Alabama* includes numerous proud honors and achievements.

During the Battle of the Philippine Sea, her radar was the first to detect the approach of enemy bombers, 476 of which were downed by the American fighters and fleet gunners. During her tenure in the American Fleet, the U.S.S. *Alabama* was directly responsible for the elimination of 22 Japanese airplanes.

By the time of the Japanese surrender, she had earned the American Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 9 Battle Stars, the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Navy Occupation Service Medal.

Her crew had proven themselves among the most courageous of the Allied fighting men, having faced the most fearsome opposition that the Axis forces had to offer as they defended the world against both Asian and European tyranny. In honor of these heroic Americans, I introduced H. Res. 123, which would immortalize their gallant contribution to liberty in our nation and the world.

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB-60) and the U.S.S. ALABAMA Crewmen's Association.

Whereas the U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB-60) was a South Dakota class battleship that served first in the North Atlantic and then in the Pacific Fleet during World War II;

Whereas in the course of World War II, the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA directly shot down 22 enemy aircraft;

Whereas the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA earned the American Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 9 Battle Stars, the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Naval Occupation Service Medal;

Whereas the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA were a courageous group, braving both the Arctic chill and the Pacific heat to help defend the Nation against enemy oppression;

Whereas many former crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA belong to the U.S.S. ALABAMA Crewmen's Association;

Whereas each year the former crewmembers participate in an annual reunion to celebrate their shared service, memories, and friendship; and

Whereas more than 100 former crewmembers, along with family and friends, are expected to participate in the next reunion, which will be held from April 15 to 18, 1999, aboard the U.S.S. ALABAMA at the Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB-60)

and the U.S.S. ALABAMA Crewmen's Association for their valuable contributions to victory and peace in World War II and to the security and prosperity of the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the valuable contributions to victory and peace in World War II made by the crewmen of the U.S.S. *Alabama* are exemplary of the tenacity which has made the United States the proud world leader it is today. I ask that you join me in honoring these brave Americans, and in thanking them for their sacrifices and dedication.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, In my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 24, 1999]

MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN LOUISIANA HATE CRIME

GRETNA, LA.—A white man convicted of a hate crime for trying to torch two cars belonging to black motorists has been sentenced to the maximum of 20 years in prison.

Prosecutors said it was the first trial involving Louisiana's hate crime law.

Frank Palermo, 32, was convicted in December of two counts of a hate crime and of dousing the vehicles with gasoline. He was sentenced Monday by State District Judge Walter Rothschild, who told Palermo, "You were out to get these people because of their race."

One of the cars had a small child in it. The cars didn't burn because it was raining at the time of the incident last September.

Authorities said, Palermo and his younger brother, Patrick, encountered the blacks working on a stalled car along an expressway in Harvey, a New Orleans suburb. Witnesses testified the Palermos became involved in a shouting match with one driver, and then fistfights broke out. Racial slurs were used, authorities said.

Frank Palermo got a baseball bat and broke windows in one car, then grabbed a gas can and poured fuel on it and another car that had a crying child strapped inside, witnesses said. They said the brothers tried to ignite the gas but the rain kept it from burning, and the brothers then fled.

The younger brother received the minimum sentence of three years in prison. He had been acquitted of the hate crime count but convicted of helping put gasoline on the cars.

The hate crime law, passed in 1997, allows a judge to add up to five extra years to a felony sentence if it is found that the actions stemmed from hatred because of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or membership in an organization.

[From the New York times, February 24, 1999]

JURY CONVICTS MAN OF CROSS-BURNING AT HOME OF INTERRACIAL COUPLE

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.—A teen-ager was convicted today of attempting to burn a cross on the lawn of an interracial couple but was acquitted of a conspiracy charge.