

credit, because Franklin Raines and the Fannie Mae have significantly increased the credit's value to D.C. residents by monetizing the \$5,000 credit. This means that D.C. residents will be able to convert the \$5,000 homebuyer credit to cash to help make the down payment on a house. The credit alone will be the down payment on a \$100,000 house in the District. As a result, for a \$100,000 house, no down payment will be necessary.

I am pleased that the President has already agreed to a one-year extension of the credit in his budget, and I am hopeful that Congress will approve this extension. The President acted because, like the Congress, he realizes that if the District is to regain permanent solvency, there is no substitute for rapidly increasing the number of residents. The indispensable increase in the home sales we are seeing in the city today cannot continue without a stable incentive that will be here for the foreseeable future. The tax base loss has been so devastating that the job before us is literally one of repopulation. The District has not yet regained a tax base sufficient to sustain the city. Its competitive position with the suburbs means it will not regain its tax base without very substantial incentives.

The \$5,000 homebuyer credit, limited by income, has proven itself as cheap way for the federal government to have a large effect on reviving the city. The credit has been significantly responsible for the phenomenal result that D.C. is now number one in home sales in the country. Home sales in the District increased an extraordinary 50% last year, "the fastest pace in the nation," according to a local analysis. We have gone from 14,206 homesales in 1997, when the credit was enacted, to 21,406 last year. We have come from a few years back when people couldn't sell to today, when people can't buy. This is why Fannie Mae's effort to increase the supply of affordable housing and to monetize the tax credit are so welcome.

The \$5,000 homebuyer credit, coupled with a rapid increase in housing stock and investment, are the best hope for increasing our population on a permanent basis. When people buy homes, they lay down roots and are less likely to flee. The District has already lost three times the population in this decade as the city lost during the entire 1980s, and D.C. is still losing population. The credit helped stimulate new population and could ultimately help turn the city's population loss around.

For years, I have searched for natural ways to increase revenue for the District. My large tax cut bill, the progressive flat tax, is a major leap forward and is still the most important initiative we could take to make the nation's capital thrive on its own. I will soon be announcing a bill to make the entire city an enterprise zone. It will spread citywide the lucrative tax breaks for D.C. businesses I won in the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act.

However, as the city looks for revenue, it must not lose sight of the reality that there can be no permanent increase in revenue without a permanent increase in our population. Investment in housing is the best way to achieve not only a livable city in all eight wards, but a thriving city of taxpaying residents who own their own homes.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation critical to the continued revitalization of the nation's capital.

WESTERN PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION HONORED ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Western Propane Gas Association on the auspicious occasion of their 50th anniversary.

Western Propane Gas Association has spent the last fifty years breaking down the barriers and building bridges between its members in the West and legislators in California and Washington. From legislative advocacy to economical insurance, its efforts promote industry awareness and provide a great service to their members and to the legislators representing our shared constituency.

Western Propane Gas Association maintains constant communication with state regulatory agencies through its interaction and lobbying. At the state level, WPGA is a pivotal voice at the California Assembly and Senate hearings, presenting the industry position on legislative topics. Through their Government Affairs Committee, WPGA informs its members of valuable federal regulatory alerts, safety bulletins and an industry specific bi-monthly newsletter. WPGA provides its members with professional and knowledgeable assistance on numerous issues that impact the propane industry.

Recently WPGA accepted the responsibility of managing the propane industry's interests in the growing field of Clean Air Alternate Motor Fuels. They assembled a Clean Fuels Task Force to bring their members research, testimony, and technical information from regulatory boards and engine manufacturers. WPGA's leadership in alternative fuel regulations is crucial not only to the success of their members, but also to the safety and preservation of its environment.

In addition to its legislative review and advocacy agenda, the Western Propane Gas Association also provides liaison advisory services to its members. For example, WPGA maintains contacts and facilitates interaction with statewide organizations such as the California Highway Patrol, the Air Resources Board, The Department of Industrial Safety, and many other local regulatory agencies.

In an industry where change is constant and technology is king, WPGA has taken a leadership role in developing standards for safety and training. The Association holds educational seminars on topics ranging from an Emergency Response Rollover Program and the Certified Employee Training Program to the Gas Check Program. WPGA also brings crucial situation training to its members through its Fire School Seminars. The fast-changing regulations and technologies of the propane and fuel industry needs a membership organization dedicated to upholding the

highest standards of safety and service, and WPGA has proven its commitment to its industry and community.

Mr. Speaker, Western Propane Gas Association brings a united, regional voice for local businesses that might otherwise be lost amongst today's regulatory environment. I rise today to commend the organization and its members for their successes and offer my best wishes for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. DONALD DIX

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enormous accomplishments and contributions made by Dr. Donald Dix of McLean, Virginia, a distinguished public servant who is retiring from the Department of Defense after 18 years of government service.

Dr. Donald M. Dix will retire as Director of the Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. During this time, Dr. Dix managed two critical national technology programs—the Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology program and the Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology program.

The Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology (IHPTET) program aims to double the national turbine engine performance capability by the turn of the century. The F-117, B-2, F-15E, F-16C/D, and Tactical Tomahawk are possible because of the leading edge work of the IHPTET.

The objective of the Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology (IHRPT) program is to double the national rocket propulsion capability by 2010. Systems such as the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, X-33, AIM-9X, and Trident D-5 Life Extension are supported by the fine work conducted by the IHRPT.

Dr. Dix's leadership on both of these programs have allowed this country to maintain its edge in these critical technology areas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Donald Dix for his significant contribution toward maintaining this country's national security. I wish him well in his retirement and all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK, MICHAEL AND SEAMUS DOYLE

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, Peter and Virginia Doyle of Kansas City, Missouri, it is my privilege to bring to your attention the exemplary service of their three sons to the United States Army. Their sons are Major Patrick Doyle, Captain Michael Doyle, and Captain Seamus Doyle.

Major Patrick Doyle was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy, West