

While the crime of murder has been reduced on the national level, the murder rate of peace officers has tragically risen.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in expressing our appreciation to all peace officers in paying tribute to those slain in line of duty and to their surviving families.

PROSTATE CANCER WAKE-UP CALL

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, in 1999 over 179,000 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Everyone has a story. One of the most heartwarming stories is that of New York Yankee skipper Joe Torre. While the latest news reports that Joe Torre's surgery has successfully removed the cancer from his body and he will be back on the job soon, news of his condition should serve as a wake-up call for all middle aged men.

In 1999, Mr. Speaker, an estimated 37,000 men will die from prostate cancer. The good news is that this type of cancer is easily treatable if it is found in the early stages, as it was with Torre. A routine physical examination provided to all the Yankees led to the diagnosis. The Yankees are not only champions on the field where America's pastime is played, the organization is also a champion off the field, whereas in the case of appropriate preventive care timely action saves lives.

Another well-deserved salute to George Steinbrenner and the Yankees management.

In Congress, Mr. Speaker, we must continue to support funding for ongoing research into the cause and cures of prostate cancer. I join all Yankee fans everywhere, and there is no bigger fan than me, in wishing Joe Torre a speedy recovery. He is a glowing example of how we can beat cancer.

A TAX SYSTEM THAT REWARDS HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE

(Mr. DEMINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, each year working moms and dads face more and more stress over paying their tax bill. This year the average taxpayer must give up nearly 5 months of paychecks just to pay their share of local, State and federal taxes. Those of us in the majority believe our constituents should keep more of their hard earned money. We know that they are spending more hours at work and less time at home. That is why we are going to eliminate our burdensome Tax Code and replace it with a new tax system that rewards work and sacrifice, a tax

system that makes dreams of a new home, a secure retirement or a better life for their children a reality. They should be able to spend their paycheck before Washington does.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are working to make sure every day is Tax Freedom Day, where one can wake up knowing that there is more money in their pocket and more freedom to pursue their dreams.

FREEWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY A FLY

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act passed in 1973 was well-intentioned legislation. But the Fish and Wildlife Service, especially in California, is working outside of the ESA and undermining the original intent.

The Galena Interchange is a freeway construction project in my district that is being held hostage by the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly. The Galena Interchange is not an expansive new highway program. We are not talking about building a new six-lane highway. It is a simple project connecting Interstate 15 to Galena Street, and it has received \$20 million in Federal, State and local funds last year to correct the commuters' nightmare.

After plans have been designed and the funds allocated, Fish and Wildlife claims that the county needs to establish a preserve for the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly and wants as many as 200 acres of the Inland Empire's priciest industrial lands for habitat mitigation. Two hundred acres could cost as much as \$32 million, 32 million for a \$20 million project. On top of all this, not one fly has been found in this area. Apparently the Branch Chief of the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office heard the buzz of the fly but did not see it and now wants \$32 million.

We need common sense reform. Support this legislation.

CONGRATULATING ST. PATRICK HOSPITAL IN MISSOULA, MONTANA

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the National Hospital Week, a time when we pay tribute to our Nation's hospitals and health systems and the workers and the volunteers and the other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a week, curing and caring for their neighbors, the folks who need them. An example of this dedication is St. Patrick Hos-

pital in Missoula, Montana. I want to commend St. Patrick Hospital for receiving the American Hospital Association's 1999 NOVA award.

NOVA awards spotlight innovative community partnerships that respond to community needs. St. Patrick Hospital is the 1999 NOVA award winner for giving people a sense of hope that their lives will improve and be more secure, and that is exactly what the residents in the low-income neighborhoods served by St. Patrick needed. The hospital formed the Healthy Neighborhood Project. Healthy neighborhoods offer a down payment assistance for first-time home buyers and supports a tool lending library. It is also helping to build a new playground and sponsors a summer reading program at the local elementary school.

I am very proud to recognize St. Patrick for its achievements. It is a stellar example of a hospital that is making a difference in its community.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF FOR WORKING FAMILIES

(Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an advocate for the taxpayers of northeastern Wisconsin. See, today, as my colleagues have already heard, is the day when Americans finally stop working for the Federal Government and start working for their own families. The average American works 131 days just to pay his or her taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I am sad to report that this year Tax Freedom Day is the latest ever.

□ 1415

As a matter of fact, Tax Freedom Day has moved back 11 days since 1993. This is unacceptable, and I believe it is time for this Congress to act.

One of my constituents, Jane Savides of Appleton, recently wrote me about the excessive burden of taxes on her family. Jane writes, quote, we just put our taxes in the mail today, and as usual we owe the government more money. We all have to put food on the table, buy clothes and save for college. We have been putting more money away for our kids' education, but the more we save for them the more we get hit with taxes.

I could not agree with Jane more. I appeal to my colleagues, now is the time to provide real tax relief to families like the Savides family. It is time to give all of our constituents true freedom, the freedom to earn more money.

TAX FREEDOM DAY 1980-1999

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House