

material must be significantly lower than the Mud Dump pollutants it is to be used to cover. Sadly, under the current and deeply flawed EPA "Category 1 standards," pollutant levels in proposed dredge spoils can actually exceed by many orders of magnitude the levels found in the material at the Mud Dump.

Second, the remediation material used at the Mud Dump must actually reduce pollution levels there.

Third, the remediation material must be shown to reduce the harmful impacts on the environment and marine life caused by the toxins found in the Mud Dump. It bears noting that the reason the HARS was created was not to provide the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey with an unlimited dumping ground. The HARS was created to remediate and clean up the toxins on the ocean floor and prevent harmful bioaccumulation of toxins in the seafood we eat.

Fourth, the new remediation standards must meet 'sunshine laws' that provide opportunities for a public notice and a public comment period. This provision is needed because the Army Corps issued the Brooklyn Marine Terminals permit without providing adequate public notice for comment. On January 24th, 2000, the Army Corps recognized its failure to provide adequate public comment and held a public meeting in New Jersey.

Fifth, the goal of the new remediation standards is to eventually clean up the Mud Dump to reflect a contamination level that is substantially equivalent to the level found naturally in the ocean. Given the amount of debate over what the EPA defines as "clean," it is important to set clear and common sense goals of what the word "clean" really means—restoring the oceans to their natural state. Only when consumers of seafood are reassured that the fish they eat are free from pollutants will the damage from ocean dumping be fully remediated.

Lastly, the bill would permanently close the Mud Dump as soon as it is fully remediated and capped with a clean layer of sand and silt that prevents existing pollution at the bottom of the ocean from finding its way into our food chain. If the economy of New York and New Jersey are to remain vibrant and healthy, we need to continue exploring alternative dredge disposal methods now. The costs of inaction greatly outweigh the additional costs of alternative disposal methods when one factors in the \$14.8 billion tourist and commercial fishing industry in New Jersey that will be seriously harmed if ocean dumping continues unabated.

TRIBUTE TO SILVIA PINAL

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 14, 2000*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the 1999 "Mr. Amigo," Silvia Pinal, chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Each year the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen with the title of "Mr. Amigo," and that person acts as a goodwill ambassador between our

two countries. Their selection honors a man or woman who has made a lasting contribution to international solidarity and goodwill at the annual Charro Days Festival.

The Charro Days Festival is a pre-Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, held in Brownsville and Matamoros. Charro Days festivities will last for several days; this year they will be February 23–27 and will include parades and appearances by Ms. Pinal. Charro Days is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area.

During Charro Days, South Texans celebrate the food, music, dances and traditions of both the United States and Mexico. The U.S.-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers.

The border has its own language and customs. On both sides of the border, there is a deep sense of history, much of which the border has seen from the front row. We have seen war and peace; we have known prosperity and bad times. Charro Days is a time for all of us to reflect on our rich history, to remember our past and to celebrate our future. The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen.

The 1999 Mr. Amigo, Ms. Pinal, has a career in film, television and music, and, recently, in public service, serving as a Senator for District 27 in Mexico City since 1998. She is also a philanthropist and a champion of women's rights. Born in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, she considered her mother her strongest supporter. Her father, who served in the military, was also a journalist in both Mexico and the United States, and Mayor of Tequisquiapan, Querataro, Mexico.

She considers her father her role model based on his political and community work. She studied at the Bellas Artes Academy, beginning with a career in radio and eventually appearing in over 100 feature films. She starred in such international favorites as "Mame," "Que Tal Dolly," and Gypsy."

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Silvia Pinal, the 1999 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

HONORING JIM PATTI, A FRIEND TO ALL

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 14, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember a man that will be greatly missed. Jim Patti touched many people's lives and was a friend to all. He passed away at the age of 49 on January 26, 2000.

Jim's record of friendship began as early as anyone can remember him. When he was in grade school, his best friend went to a different school. They were both very happy

when they ended up in the same high school. Jim was very active on the decorating committee for all of the dances sponsored by the high school. Jim enjoyed drawing and he would design all the decorations.

Working at the family restaurant, Patti's Restaurant, was always a part of Jim's life. He started working at the family-owned business by the time he was seven years old. He was a busboy and a story-teller. He loved people and he would always remember the stories to tell about them. He also met his wife, Judy, at the restaurant. Eventually Jim and Judy took over ownership of the restaurant and remodeled it several times. They also owned J. Patti Construction.

Jim also loved sports, especially Colorado sports. From the University of Colorado Buffaloes to the Denver Broncos, Jim was always ready to get together to watch the game. Having a good time was one of Jim's fortes. He enjoyed having his family and friends. Even though the family was large, there was always enough love to go around.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute to Jim Patti, the "trunk of the family tree". He was a great friend to all and loved life to the fullest.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MICHAEL FARRELL AND JUDGE LELAND B. HARRIS

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 14, 2000*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to Judge Michael Farrell and Judge Leland B. Harris, who will be honored on February 17, 2000, by the San Fernando Bar Association (SFVBA). Judge Farrell will be named the San Fernando Valley Bar Association Judge of the Year and Judge Harris will be presented with a Special Recognition Award.

Judge Farrell has enjoyed a long and distinguished judicial career. He currently serves as the Supervising Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court Northwest District. He was elevated to this position in 1989, after being appointed to the Municipal Court Bench in 1986 by former Governor Deukmejian. Prior to that, he served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Court Trustee, and was an attorney for the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, Global Marine, Inc., and the law firms Early, Maslach, Foran & Williams; Hunt & Finn; and his brother's firm Coleman & Farrell.

In addition to his numerous and substantial judicial responsibilities, Judge Farrell has been working with the SFVBA, Neighborhood Legal Services, and the Monroe High School magnet program to start a pilot self-help program. The program will provide free legal information and legal services to the public. He has also taken an active role in seeking Los Angeles County funds to repair the damage to his courthouse caused by the Northridge Earthquake.

Judge Harris will be honored for his dedicated service and work with the Calabasas Teen Court Program—a program run by teens, and for teens that is designed to interrupt developing patterns of criminal behavior, promote self-esteem and provide motivation for self improvement and a healthy attitude toward authority.

Judge Harris graduated from San Fernando Valley State College (now Cal State Northridge) and the University of San Diego School of Law. He was appointed to the Municipal Court by former Governor Deukmejian in 1991. Prior to this appointment he served as a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney, including many years at the San Fernando Court. During this time, many of his accomplishments were in the area of nursing home reform. He was instrumental in changing a section of the penal code in 1986 to expedite the testimony of elderly crime victims and witnesses.

It is our distinct pleasure to ask our colleagues to join with us in saluting both Judge Farrell and Judge Harris for their outstanding achievements, and to congratulate them for receiving the prestigious honors granted them by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.

---

#### MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2000*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 6, the "Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act of 2000," and I urge that we continue to work toward enactment of bipartisan legislation that includes sensible tax relief and progress on reducing the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, I have not been shy in expressing the need for debt reduction. I stand squarely behind conservative economists, such as Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, in calling for debt reduction as the highest priority for managing our surplus. I think tax cuts are an important way of providing relief for working Americans, but reducing the debt is also essential for improving the economic well-being of all Americans. Reducing the national debt lowers interest rates on everything from student loans to mortgages to credit cards to business loans. It provides financial relief to a broad range of people without the need for a large bureaucracy at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to administer and enforce the financial relief, as tax cuts require.

Relieving the national debt is also a matter of generational equity. I am convinced of the need to give future generations a fresh start in managing this country. Saddling them with more than \$5 trillion in national debt handicaps their ability to provide for future needs.

The Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act also addresses an important equity issue—equal treatment of married couples. Under current law, dual income couples pay a higher share of taxes than single income couples with the same income. In addition, they pay a higher

share of taxes than they would if they were both single. The primary reasons are because the 15 percent tax bracket and the standard deduction for married couples is not twice that of single earners. This creates a "tax penalty" for dual income married couples, including many working class families where both parents must work to make ends meet. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the average marriage penalty is almost \$1400 a year. Between 1969 and 1995, the fraction of working-age couples in which both spouses earned income increased from 48 percent to 72 percent. In Delaware alone, there are 74,120 families that suffer from the marriage tax penalty.

Republicans and Democrats alike agree that these statistics cry out for some level of relief. President Clinton proposed a \$45 billion relief package. House Democrats proposed a limited \$89 billion relief package. House Republicans have proposed a \$180 billion tax package that provides relief to more families. Marriage penalty relief was an element of the alternative tax package I introduced in 1999. Working families can benefit from debt reduction in the form of lower mortgage rates and lower interest rates on consumer debt, but they also deserve relief from a tax policy that penalizes married couples who must both work to provide for their family.

Both parties should lay aside their rhetoric and budget gimmicks that allow the President to claim he can pay down the entire debt, invest in large new spending programs, provide tax cuts, and still preserve Social Security. Instead, we need to come together, election year or not, and make judicious, common-sense decisions on how we will prudently allocate the surplus among tax relief, debt reduction, and priority programs like defense and education. We cannot make unrealistic promises on tax cuts or spending based on ten year budget projections that could rapidly change.

I support H.R. 6 because I recognize that working families deserve relief. H.R. 6 makes a strong statement to budget negotiators that marriage penalty relief must be a priority. It will serve as a good starting point for negotiations that should lead to a fair compromise that includes tax relief, debt reduction, and sensible spending for important programs. I support H.R. 6 and will continue to work to enact effective and fair marriage penalty relief this year.

---

#### TRIBUTE TO INVESTIGATOR RAMONA YOUNG ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 14, 2000*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 18, 2000, a retirement party in honor of Ms. Ramona J. Young will be held at the Garden Manor in Aberdeen, NJ. Ms. Young will be honored by her friends and family on the occasion of her retirement after a distinguished career as an Investigator with the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender.

Ramona Young has devoted herself to helping others in many capacities. A registered nurse, she graduated from the Montefiore Hospital School of Nursing in the Bronx, New York, and worked as an operating room nurse. In January 1975, Ms. Young came to work with the Department of the Public Advocate as a Field Representative in the Division of Citizen Complaints. In this position, she handled all the problems presented to her by New Jersey residents, ranging from motor vehicle complaints to issues relating to heating problems, always responding in an effective and courteous manner. She remained with the Division of Citizen Complaints until July of 1986.

At that time, Ms. Young was transferred to the Public Advocate's Division of Mental Health Advisory in Farmingdale, NJ, as a Field Representative covering Monmouth and Ocean Counties, NJ. In this position, she called upon the use of her nurse's training to help those people who, as the saying goes, "fall between the cracks." Ms. Young recognized that people are not just bureaucratic statistics. She worked tirelessly on behalf of people with legitimate grievances who need assistance from supportive, qualified professionals in a position to help. Guided by this philosophy, Ms. Young helped countless people through the bureaucratic maze for a fair and just resolution of their cases.

In 1995, Ms. Young was transferred from Mental Health Advocacy to the Office of Public Defender, Criminal Division, as a Principal State Investigator. Her assignment was in the Union County, NJ, Trial Region. Once again, Ms. Young proved to be a dedicated and effective advocate for the disadvantaged. She always put her experience and training to work, combined with a strong measure of compassion and professionalism. The result was unfailingly accurate, impartial and professional investigations.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to Ramona Young on the occasion of her retirement. While the Office of the Public Defender is losing a talented and dedicated professional, I hope and trust she will continue to contribute her energy and experience to the betterment of our community.

---

#### WILLIAM MEDESY, A LIFELONG ADVOCATE OF EDUCATION

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 14, 2000*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember a man that has dedicated his life to being a service to others. William Medesy passed away on February 1, 2000. He was 90 years old.

William was born in Cleveland in 1909. He graduated from Purdue University and went on to receive a master's degree from Yale University in 1938. William used his master's degree in forestry to work for the United States Forest Service and teach forestry at the University of New Hampshire until 1941. During World War II, as an officer in the United States Army Reserves, William served as a field artillery battery commander in the North