

FAIR TAX TREATMENT FOR INSURANCE AGENTS' TERMINATION PAYMENTS ACT OF 2000

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a small business tax relief measure that will assist thousands of insurance agents throughout this country as they prepare for retirement.

Many exclusive insurance agents who leave or retire from their jobs receive what is known as a "termination payment" under a contractual agreement with their respective insurance companies. These payments are paid for intangible assets, including the agent's "book of business" and goodwill, and are usually spread out over a series of years.

Currently, there is confusion about the tax treatment of these termination payments, which has caused some IRS field agents to question the capital gains treatment of these payments. My bill, the "Fair Tax Treatment for Insurance Agents' Termination Payments Act of 2000," will make it clear that these termination payments are for the sale or other disposition of intangible capital assets and therefore should be subject to capital gains treatment. A clarification of current law is needed to ensure the correct result and prevent unknowing IRS agents from subjecting innocent insurance agents around the country to attack and audit on an issue that has no basis for controversy.

I urge my colleagues to support my bill and work with me to clarify the law to ensure that insurance agent "termination payments" are subject to capital gains treatment for Federal income tax purposes.

TRIBUTE TO POLONIA SPORT CLUB, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the men and women of Polonia Sport Club, Inc., of Franklin, Wisconsin.

Polonia Sport Club was founded to provide an opportunity for recent Polish immigrants to the Milwaukee area to gather for social activities and sporting events—mainly soccer games—and keep alive and flourishing the traditions of their homeland. Today, Polonia Park, located on West Loomis Road just west of Highway 100 in the Milwaukee suburb of Franklin, boasts 23 beautiful acres of parkland and soccer fields, a shaded picnic area and a quaint traditional Polish chapel. The grounds are utilized by young and senior citizens alike, and range from ethnic Polish groups to youth and adult weekend soccer tournaments attracting players and their families from throughout the Midwest.

The members of Polonia Sport Club have truly witnessed a revival of its original inten-

tions of soccer being a unifying outlet for immigrants to the Milwaukee area to the game's present-day emergence as the fastest growing youth participatory athletic event in the US.

My family and I have had the privilege of attending and hosting more than a few events at Polonia Park over the years and have always been impressed with the old-world charm of the park's grounds and hospitality offered by the park's managers.

On November 4, the founders, active members and guests of Polonia will celebrate the club's 50th anniversary with a banquet at the new Polish Center of Wisconsin. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize this event by bringing Polonia Sport Club's many attributes to the attention of the United States Congress.

To the members of Polonia Sport Club, I offer my sincere congratulations on your first 50 years and best wishes for the future. *Sto lat.*

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR FOR DORIS MILLER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would allow the awarding of a Congressional Medal of Honor to Doris Miller. This recognition is long overdue to a man who served his country with distinction and who performed valiantly during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Doris Miller, born and raised in Waco, Texas, enlisted with the Navy as a Mess Attendant in 1939 at the age of 20. This was one of the few positions available at the time to black sailors in the country's segregated military. Within four months, he was assigned to the battleship U.S.S. West Virginia, stationed at Pearl Harbor.

On the fateful day of December 7, 1941, Doris Miller was collecting laundry when Japanese aircraft attacked. The ship's commanding officer, Captain Mervyn Bennon, had been hit in the stomach by shrapnel. Doris Miller dragged his captain to a place of greater safety. Then, without any prior training, Miller manned a machine gun on the ship's deck. He shot down at least two of the 29 Japanese planes that were lost by the attackers that day, and Miller may have hit up to four others.

Doris Miller continued to serve his country in the Navy during World War II. However, in 1943, he and 654 shipmates were killed in the line of duty when the Japanese sank the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Liscome Bay* near the Gilbert Islands.

Unfortunately, like other African Americans who served in the military during World War II, Doris Miller's acts of valor have never been fully recognized, and some of the awards that were bestowed upon him were only given grudgingly. Initially, Doris Miller's actions were not publicized until three months after the Pearl Harbor attack. Then, he was only given a letter of citation by the Secretary of the Navy—the lowest of awards for duty. Doris Miller was finally awarded the Navy Cross, but

only after a public campaign by civil rights organizations brought about critical attention in the press. However, Doris Miller was not decorated with the nation's highest honor—the Congressional Medal of Honor. In fact, no African American who served in World War II received the Congressional Medal of Honor until seven Army veterans were given the award in 1997.

The legislation that I introduce today would waive the time limitation specified in current law for the awarding of military decorations in order to allow the posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Doris Miller for his heroic actions during World War II, so that a long-awaited honor may finally be bestowed upon this deserving individual.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, back in June, the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth men's and women's basketball teams embarked on a twelve-day trip to Portugal in order to participate in the 10th Annual Amadora International Basketball Tournament 2000. Two years earlier, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth had hosted the Portuguese National Junior Team, and as a result the Portuguese Basketball Federation invited both the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth teams to compete in this year's tournament. Both teams competed well, with the men's basketball team finishing in second place. This type of athletic event further highlights the strong cultural ties between the Greater New Bedford/Dartmouth Area and Portugal. Men's basketball coach Brian Baptiste, Women's basketball coach, Lynn Sheedy and the Athletic Director Robert Mullen should be commended for their efforts in encouraging this type of exchange which brought pride to Southeastern Massachusetts and allowed young men and women to experience, first hand, a culture that is so prevalent in this area.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDDYSTONE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to congratulate the Eddystone Fire Company No. 1 for 100 years of dedicated service to the residents of Eddystone, Pennsylvania.

The Eddystone Fire Company, chartered on January 29, 1900, was actually organized in 1895. Some thirty-six men gathered one January evening in 1895, in the old lighthouse hall in Eddystone Village. By the time they went

home the volunteer fire company had been founded. The original by-laws were adopted February 14, 1895 and the first officers were elected.

The first piece of fire apparatus, which consisted mainly of fire hose on a hand-drawn reel, was purchased shortly after the group was organized. It was housed in the old Town Hall building, on the corner of Saville Avenue and 12th Street. As new pieces of equipment were purchased during the years they too were housed in this building.

Early in 1954, a new firehouse was built in the old Town Hall. When it was completed, the fire apparatus was moved to its new quarters, and the old Town Hall was torn down to make way for the new borough hall.

The firefighters of Eddystone Fire Company No. 1 have an impressive record when it comes to fire fighting. The company has fought such spectacular blazes as the Boyer Lumber Yard fire, the Eddystone Ammunition Plant explosion, the Remington Hotel fire, Tollins Furniture store blaze, the Baldwin Paint Shop fire, the Eddystone High School fire and more recently the Sun Oil truck explosion and fire.

The fire company is a volunteer organization and is on 24-hour call for fire, ambulance and water rescue search and recovery services. Aside from a modest appropriation from the borough, the fire company is supported through the efforts of its members and the Ladies Auxiliary. The ambulance service is made up of men and women who are thoroughly trained in first aid and now includes emergency medical technicians. These services are available to all residents of the borough.

Today the Eddystone Fire Company is a member of the Ridley Township Fire Board, a sophisticated network of telephone and radio equipment, which handles calls automatically and keeps a record of every alarm called into the company. Many in the Borough have a direct alarm hook-up to the firehouse which gives prompt notice of a potential industrial fire.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicated not only their time, but also their lives, to the safety of all Eddystone residents as well as surrounding communities. As a former fire chief in Marcus Hook, I am aware of the risks firefighters face each day, under intense pressure, in life or death situations. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment, courage and dedication of Eddystone Fire Company members who continue to reflect the same true spirit in which the department was established more than 100 years ago. I am honored to rise today to extend my thanks for what the members of the Eddystone Fire Company do each day and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary.

UPON THE DEATH OF ROBERT K. PILLSBURY, DEDICATED MINNESOTA COMMUNITY LEADER AND VISIONARY ENVIRONMENTALIST

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly to salute a remarkable and visionary public servant from the Lake Minnetonka community in Minnesota who passed away recently. Robert K. Pillsbury of Minnetonka, Minnesota, passed away October 5, 2000, after a long illness. Bob will be sorely missed by all of us who admired and respected his dedicated public stewardship and his love and devotion to his faith, family, friends, and country.

By any measure of merit, Bob was one of our nation's best and brightest—a gifted business leader, civic leader and loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Bob Pillsbury loved his country and was a true patriot, serving a grateful nation with honor and great courage during World War II as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesotans called him "Mr. Lake Minnetonka." Bob lived on the shores of Lake Minnetonka and there wasn't a more dedicated, vigilant defender of the lake than Bob Pillsbury. He was relentless in the amount of time, energy and talent he devoted to protecting Lake Minnetonka for both current users and future generations.

Bob started the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol on Lake Minnetonka. The Water Patrol has made a huge, life-saving difference in providing safety measures on the surface of this busy, metro-area lake, and it has served as a model for law enforcement agencies all around the nation with jurisdiction over navigable waters.

A warm and friendly man with a great wit, Bob Pillsbury represented his community on the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District for many years. His hard work on that citizens' panel led to many innovative practices to clean up and protect Lake Minnetonka, a highly used lake located in the midst of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Bob's bold vision produced environmental policies that will be followed for years to come.

With Bob Pillsbury, no detail went overlooked. He was always looking for ways to keep Lake Minnetonka beautiful. One of Bob's favorite crusades was his plan to require dock owners to use green boat canopies rather than white, striped and multicolored ones, all the better to blend the intrusion of development into the natural environment. Mr. Speaker, the resolution never passed, but there are more green canopies on the lake than ever before, including mine.

Bob Pillsbury was a highly successful stockbroker because he believed in people and his clients believed in him. He was a man of great integrity and he was a stakeholder in his community in so many ways. He was an original member of the City of Minnetonka's Charter Commission and a long-time member of the Minnetonka Planning Commission.

Bob was an active member of the American Legion and the Zuhrah Shrine Temple, as well as the Fox and Hounds and Lafayette Clubs.

Bob was also a great fan of University of Minnesota Golden Gopher Football. For 25 years, he organized charter flights to out-of-town Golden Gopher football games and did not miss a Golden Gopher game—home or away—for 25 years. He was one of the biggest Gopher football fans ever. Despite failing health, Bob continued to watch every game in recent years at the Hillcrest Health Care Center, where he lived the past 5 years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's wonderful family: his lovely wife of 58 years, Elizabeth M. Pillsbury; his sons, Robert, Jr. (wife Tody), and Charles (wife Linda); and his daughter, Sandra (husband David), as well as his four grandchildren and their spouses, and his step-grandson and his spouse and family.

TRIBUTE TO A.L. "PETE" SINGLETON

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to one of the most truly outstanding staff people with whom I have served here in the People's House. Pete Singleton is about to retire as Staff Director of the Ways and Means Committee for the second time, and I know that all the Members of the Committee will miss him dearly.

Pete first served his country as a Marine in World War II. Pete joined the staff of the Committee in 1970 as Deputy Minority Staff Director after having two previous, successful careers—one in journalism as a reporter and editor of several papers including the Washington, D.C., STAR, and one for the then U.S. Steel Company.

He quickly mastered two of the most difficult matters under the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee, Social Security and International Trade. In 1981, he became Minority Staff Director and held that position until 1988 when he first retired. During that period he wrote several books and served on the Quadrennial Advisory Committee on Social Security and on the Social Security Advisory Board. Eight years later, I asked him to return to the staff and he became Majority Staff Director, the position he holds today.

Pete has made significant substantive contributions to the Committee and the country, especially in the area of Social Security. It was he, in 1977, who drafted the Minority Social Security proposals, most of which later became law. Most recently, he oversaw the Committee's intensive efforts during action on the historic 1997 Balanced Budget Act and Taxpayer Relief Act, as well as legislation to repeal the Social Security earnings limit.

This history of his dedication to the Members of the Committee and the House is, by itself, sufficient to warrant our thanks and best wishes for the future. But, frankly, that pales by comparison with the quality of his service. Pete Singleton is one of the most loyal people I have ever known. His first thought has always been "How does this impact the Committee?" He is one of the hardest working staff persons I have known, and has sacrificed