

I first introduced the Progressive Flat Tax in the 104th Congress. I remain persistent not only because of the city's continuing and serious taxpayer deficit, but particularly because of the strong support I have received for the PFT from congressional leadership. They include Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT (R-MS), who sponsored the first-ever D.C. town meeting in the Senate and Senator CONNIE MACK (R-FL), Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, and other members, who remain strong supporters of the PFT.

TITLE IV: THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA \$5000 HOMEBUYER CREDIT ACT

This title would make permanent the \$5,000 Homebuyer Credit, perhaps the most successful economic stimulus in the city's history. It is chiefly responsible for stemming the flight that almost destroyed the city's tax base during the 1980s and during the financial crisis and insolvency of the 1990s. The credit offers significant evidence that a tightly targeted tax incentive can have a major turn around effect on a specific problem confronting a city.

The credit has been so successful that we have recommended that states do the same for the many large cities that are rapidly losing taxpayers. In its first year, despite the city's financial problems and damaged reputation, the credit made the District first in home sales increases in the United States. According to an independent study by the Greater Washington Research Center, 70% of D.C. homebuyers have used the credit, and 51% purchased homes because of the credit.

Last Year, the Senate was so impressed with the Homebuyer Credit results that it increased the income limits for joint filers from \$130,000 to \$180,000. The limit for individual filers is \$90,000. This increase was passed by the House and Senate, but no omnibus tax bill was enacted last year. Nevertheless, the Senate action demonstrates congressional acknowledgment of the effectiveness of tax credits in general and of the \$5,000 homebuyer credit in particular. Fannie Mae has converted the credit into up-front money towards the purchase of a home, affording the credit significantly greater value to the individual.

The \$5,000 homebuyer credit proved itself so quickly and so well that I have been able to get it repeatedly extended by Congress. The credit is similar to the PFT in its magnet effect. Until the PFT is enacted, the \$5,000 credit is minimally necessary if the city is to have any chance of increasing its still small and depleted tax base. The credit has proved itself so definitively that to get the full effect, it should be enacted permanently.

TRIBUTE TO LUE IDA HILL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I commend the 100th birthday of Lue Ida Hill from Swanton, Ohio. This remarkable woman lives a life that celebrates every day as a gift, every sunrise as the herald of new opportunities.

When Mrs. Hill referred to her centennial birthday as "just another day", she does so

not to comment on the routine of life, the monotony of "just another day", she sets an example to us all that everyday, indeed, every moment, ought to be a cause for celebration. For by celebrating, we give thanks for the blessings bestowed upon us by God.

Mrs. Hill has never known what most of us call retirement, for she continues to keep herself busy by helping her neighbors and bringing joy to those around her. With a bow in her hair, a tradition she began while working as a butcher, she was careening about her home in a motorcycle sidecar just months before her birthday.

Lue Ida is a first class woman from a first class community. She's never stopped working, whether it was at the farm helping out with the plowing or mending shirts for Arizona State University students. She's done it all with a gracious and genuine smile. Now, with 68 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, Lue Ida keeps the fellow residents of the Harborside Healthcare Facility hopping. There, they refer to her as a social butterfly, playing cards and chatting with her friends and neighbors.

If only we could all be half the "butterfly" Lue Ida is. Bringing happiness to those around us, joy to our loved ones, and recognizing the gift of what we have instead of complaining for what we don't.

Our entire community wishes to extend its warmest and most caring congratulations to Lue Ida Hill on the attainment of her 100th year. Few Americans reach this incredible life pinnacle. May God bless Lue Ida and keep her as America and the world move toward the new millennium. She is a legendary teacher to us all.

FRIENDS OF MUSTANGS RECEIVES THE "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" AWARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an exceptional group, the Friends of the Mustangs group, who were honored by the Bureau of Land Management with the "Making a Difference" award. The BLM selected the Friends of the Mustangs group because of their dedication to Colorado and to its outdoors.

For the past 17 years, the Friends of the Mustangs group have volunteered and managed the BLM's Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Area. There, they saved the BLM over \$20,000 by volunteering over 2,500 hours, maintained the grounds, fixing fences and trails. They also performed pre-adoption inspections. As a result, the Friends of the Mustangs group has played an integral role in managing wild horses.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious why the Friends of the Mustangs group was chosen for the "Making a Difference" award. I think we owe them a debt of gratitude for their service and dedication to Colorado and to its outdoors.

HONORING MR. DONALD ALMQUIST

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I honor my friend, Mr. Donald Almquist, who is retiring after serving on the School Board in Greenfield, Wisconsin for 23 years. Don was the School Board president for eight years, and has also served as vice-president, and as treasurer.

After retiring from a lengthy career in the Marine Corps, Don settled down in Greenfield where he has been an outstanding member of the community ever since. His work with such civic organizations as the Greenfield Lions Club, Greenfield Historical Society, American Legion, Boy Scouts of America, Greenfield Little League, and Vietnam Veterans of America have helped to make his community a better place to live.

Over the past 23 years, Don has left his mark on the quality of education in Greenfield. He has initiated many programs for Greenfield students including a school breakfast program, and a Junior ROTC program. He was also instrumental in beginning the filming of School Board meetings for cable television broadcasting.

Though this is his second retirement, Don will certainly have no trouble keeping himself busy. While he will no longer be a member of Greenfield's school board, he will continue his public service as the city's 4th district alderman, and president of the Common Council. He will also remain active in the Lion's Club, as well as the Education Scholarship Foundation, and a number of other community organizations.

Don has received many awards from the Greenfield Lion's Club including: The President's Award, the Governor's Award, and the Melvin Jones Fellow Award. He was also honored with the 1996 Achievement Award as one of Wisconsin's Outstanding Vietnam Veterans.

And so it is my great pleasure to extend my gratitude to my good friend Donald Almquist for his years of service, and my congratulations to him and his wife, Beverly, on a well deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF HUDSON COUNTY EIGHTH ANNUAL "OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" DINNER DANCE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the United Cerebral Palsy of Hudson County Eighth Annual "Outstanding Achievement Award" Dinner Dance.

Since 1951, United Cerebral Palsy (UPC) of Hudson County has had one mission: "To advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with disabilities." At UPC