

peer. Alarming statistics that guns kill more teens than all natural causes combined hit home for the group. Unfortunately, it takes a tragic event such as Columbine or the assassination of Martin Luther King to make the nation aware enough to affect change. We want to reduce the 32,850 yearly gun-related deaths in this nation and we believe that an aggressive, nationalized system of effective prevention and enforcement programs will reduce that number significantly.

OUR PROPOSAL

The Congresswoman Eshoo Student Advisory Board proposes an aggressive attack on both sides of the gun control issue. We propose a nationalized set of laws, regulated by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm (ATF) preventing the unrestricted sale of guns and effectively enforcing the laws. To prevent gun crime, education about guns and their danger as well as laws restricting the sale of guns must be enacted on a national level to end the disparity between states. First, we propose that a D.A.R.E. type program be used in elementary and high schools to educate children about the dangers of guns. The success of the D.A.R.E. program to effectively reduce drug use in teens assures us that the same success can be achieved for guns. Secondly, we want to make gun laws the same regardless of where a gun is sold. Every state will have to follow the same federal regulations and every gun show dealer will be subject to the same restriction as a licensed gun store. Gunlock laws need to be consistent across the nation. There has already been progress this year: the Smith and Wesson Agreement, in its earliest form, is a landmark decision that is a step in the right direction. However, pressure from other gun companies and the NRA has forced Smith and Wesson to take back some of its' earlier promises. Also, Maryland recently passed a revolutionary new law making built-in locks mandatory by 2002. Thirdly, our plan includes the licensing of every gun dealer as well as owner. The NRA and other anti-gun control groups argue that we should not interfere with the law abiding citizens' right to bear arms (Second Amendment of the Constitution) by increasing the restrictions and making the process longer. We argue simply that a person who is legally allowed to purchase a gun may have to endure a more thorough background check or wait longer to receive their gun, but they are not giving up any freedoms by doing this. A legal gun owner will be allowed to walk away with a gun but they will have prevented a person not fit to own a gun from purchasing one by accepting the regulations as well. It is for the safety of the greater society that we ask legal gun owners to endure the longer process.

The second part of reducing gun crime in the United States is enforcement of the laws. We have identified and sited solutions to the many loopholes that currently plague the system because of the strong anti-gun control lobby and pro-gun congress members. Also noted in the enforcement section are success stories, which show that tough enforcement programs such as Project Exile and The Boston Summer of Opportunity can work to effectively reduce the crime rate nationwide just as they did in their respective cities. We discuss current laws pertaining to guns, some bills that are currently in congress and funding methods. We stress, more than anything else, that tough enforcement of laws, public awareness of the consequences of gun related crimes and proper funding for these programs is essential in reducing the number of gun related deaths in this nation.

We hope that we will spark an interest in some of you to act on this proposal and we hope that we will provide you, Congresswoman Eshoo, with solid information to use in Congress to affect change on behalf of your student (and soon to be your voting) constituents. If we want to reduce gun-related crime, we need action. California Senator Feinstein has taken a step in the right direction. She introduced a bill requiring the licensing of most gun buyers. It would cover buyers of handguns and some semiautomatic weapons and would mandate that records for sales of each be kept. We feel that strong preventative action needs to be enacted along with strict enforcement of laws pertaining to gun control in order to finally reduce gun crime in the United States.

CONCLUSION

Gun related crime take the lives of 32,500 people every year. That is about ninety people per day and 3,000 of those people are under nineteen years old. The United States' position on gun control presently is to let states make most of the laws governing prevention and enforcement methods. The problems created by not having a national system of gun control account for many of the deaths in this nation. We propose a federally run and funded program that includes prevention methods as well as strict enforcement regulations. This is the only way to keep guns out of unacceptable hands.

National prevention efforts should include universal gun safety lock laws and funding for more research on "Smart Gun" technology. A D.A.R.E. style program focused on guns will be the key to educating children about guns so they can make good decisions later in life. Prevention is essential to reducing gun-related crimes and suicides.

Effective enforcement is the other aspect in the fight to reduce gun-related deaths in the United States. Without harsh punishments for criminals who use guns any prevention efforts will not be effective. Project Exile, a successful enforcement project in Richmond, Virginia, is a perfect example of a program that we feel should be utilized in high crime areas throughout the nation. Proper funding and identification of worthwhile programs is equally important. We have identified bills that are currently in the House of Representatives to encourage your support, Congresswoman Eshoo, for the types of bills presented. Lastly, we have shown successful programs such as the "Summer of Opportunity" in Boston, Massachusetts and important, landmark legislation such as the Brady Bill that are steps in the right direction.

The Congresswoman Eshoo Student Advisory Board feels that aggressive, nationwide change needs to take place to effectively reduce gun crime in the United States. We would like to mention positive efforts to educate and reduce gun crimes. The Million-Mom March taking place this Sunday, May 15 (Mothers Day) embodies many of the aspects of gun control that we support. Senator Feinstein's recent announcement of her bill to make gunlocks mandatory is also a step in the right direction. We hope that this report will provide the information necessary to enact change on the Hill. We hope that Congress and President Clinton can come to agreement on a truly successful program to reduce gun crime, especially in the wake of tragedies such as Columbine and the Michigan shooting of a six-year-old child. There is no better time to enact landmark legislation that embodies both the prevention and enforcement side of this problem.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, although I was on the House floor throughout the proceedings for consideration of H.R. 8, the repeal of the federal estate tax, on Friday, June 9, 2000, I was not recorded as voting on that issue.

My vote was recorded to defeat LLOYD DOGGETT's Motion to Recommit H.R. 8, but my vote on final passage of H.R. 8 was not recorded.

I was a cosponsor of that legislation and it has been a part of my platform since my election to Congress in 1994. I am disappointed that my vote was not recorded because I have always and continue to be in favor of repeal of the federal estate tax.

CLOSE THE 527 LOOPHOLE AND END THE DEATH TAX

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 9, 2000, with my support, the House passed the legislation (H.R. 8) to eliminate the Death Tax.

For too long, exorbitant tax rates have made it difficult for Americans to pass their savings onto their children, and for small businessmen and farmers to keep their enterprises within the family.

That's why I cosponsored and voted in favor of the Death Tax Elimination Act (H.R. 8), which would phase out the estate and gift tax over a period of 10 years.

It is my hope that phasing out the death tax will make it easier for individuals and families to accumulate savings for future generations.

In addition, during debate on this important legislation, a motion was offered to address another important issue—campaign finance reform. I supported this motion.

Congress' failure over the years to address the issue of campaign finance reform hurts all of us. It undermines public confidence in this institution and cast a cloud over every action we take in this House.

I have been actively fighting for campaign finance reform in this House for a number of years—from authoring my own Independent Commission Bill to supporting a ban on soft money through Shays-Meehan to supporting today's motion to close the 527 loophole.

Recently, there has been an increase in anonymous campaign expenditures by third parties. Many of these organizations are classified by Section 527 of the tax code. These "527" organizations are currently free to participate in our electoral process, but are not required to disclose to the American voters from where their funds originate.

To establish disclosure requirements for individuals and organizations who wish to take

an active role in affecting the outcome of federal elections is just plain common sense. Individuals and organizations who strongly believe in an issue or a candidate and are willing to back them up with the financial resources should not be allowed to hide behind a loophole.

Congress must act on legislation requiring disclosure for any group who wishes to participate of our federal electoral process.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, not long ago I was privileged to take part in a ceremony in Orlando, Florida to commemorate the Battle of the Bulge and those who fought in that historic battle. The ceremony was conducted to dedicate an impressive new memorial erected to honor the 600,000 Americans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

The keynote speaker at the dedication was Brigadier General William E. Carlson (USA/Ret.), a distinguished and exceptional gentleman who resides in Winter Park, Florida. At the age of 12, General Carlson was a Congressional Page serving in the House of Representatives on that historic day when President Roosevelt asked a joint session of Congress for a declaration of war.

To commemorate the Battle of the Bulge Monument, General Carlson gave a moving and graphic description of the battle and the historic events which preceded it. His speech should be read by others so that this story will never be forgotten. In Washington we are working to build a long overdue monument to World War II and honor the heroes who fought in it. In Orlando, we are proud to honor our World War II soldiers with our monument to the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit General Carlson's Battle of the Bulge speech for inclusion in the RECORD:

It was the 16th of September, 1944. Adolf Hitler had summoned a group of his senior officers to his study in the huge, underground bunker in the Wolf's Lair, Hitler's field headquarters, located deep in a pine forest in East Prussia.

Those summoned were his closest and most trusted military advisors. Among them was only one who wore the red stripes of the German General Staff. He was the head of the Operations Staff of the High Command of the Wehrmacht, General Alfred Jodl.

The officers were waiting when Hitler entered. Taking a seat, Hitler instructed Jodl to sum up the situation on the Western Front.

During the briefing, Jodl noted that there was one area of particular concern where the Americans were attacking and where the Germans had almost no troops: That area was the region of Belgium and Luxembourg called the Ardennes.

At the word "Ardennes", Hitler suddenly ordered Jodl to stop the briefing. There was a long pause. Then with firmness in his voice Hitler said, "I shall go on the offensive here!" and he slapped his hand down on the map—"Here, out of the Ardennes! The objective is Antwerp!"

With those words Hitler set in motion preparations for a battle that was to assume epic proportions: the greatest German attack in the West since the campaign of 1940.

Hitler named this Operations Plan Wacht Am Rhein. He personally selected this name to imply a defensive Operation, rather than an offensive operation, in order to deceive the Allies.

During the planning, the German General Staff made numerous changes to Hitler's original concept for the operation. When the battle began, the German code name for the operation was Autumn Mist.

A split second after five-thirty a.m. on Saturday, December the 16th an American soldier manning an observation post high on top of a water tower in the village of Hosingen telephoned his Company Commander. He reported that in the distance on the German side he could see a strange phenomenon: countless flickering pinpoints of light. Within a few seconds both he and his Company Commander had an explanation. They were the muzzle flashes of over 2,000 German artillery pieces.

The early morning stillness of the fog-shrouded forest was suddenly shattered with the thunderclap of a massive artillery barrage landing on the Americans.

Operation Autumn Mist was underway. The onslaught had begun.

The Americans called it the Battle of the Bulge.

The Battle of the Bulge lasted from the 16th of December 1944 until the 25th of January 1945. It was the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army.

More than a million men participated in this battle including 600,000 American soldiers, 500,000 Germans, and 55,000 British. The American military force consisted of a total of three Armies with 33 Divisions. While the German military force consisted of two Panzer Armies with 29 Divisions. More than 120,000 Germans were killed, wounded or captured during the battle. Each side lost over 800 tanks.

Wars are planned by old men in council rooms far from the battlefield. But at the end of the most grandiose plans of the highest-ranking Generals is the soldier walking the point or manning the outposts. The monument we dedicate today is a monument to those soldiers.

The real story of the Battle of the Bulge is the story of those soldiers and the intense combat action of the small units—the squads, the platoons and the companies—and the soldiers who filled their ranks.

These are the men that made up the fighting strength of the divisions, engaged the Germans in combat and suffered the casualties.

Battalion Commanders and Company Commanders—young, lean, tough, battle-wise and toil worn. Fuzzy-cheeked lieutenants, grizzly NCO's, and seasoned troopers; battle-hardened and disciplined in automatic habits of combat never learned in school. And green replacements, fresh off the ships from home, marched off into battle for the first time and in their hearts was fear of the unknown.

Around their necks hung their dog tags and rosaries. On their heads was the steel pot and in their pocket was a picture of the girl back home.

Surprised, stunned and not understanding what was happening to him, the American soldier nevertheless held fast—he was as tenacious as the old junkyard dog until he was overwhelmed by the German onslaught, or until his commanders ordered him to withdraw.

The Battle was a very personal fight for them. Concerned with the fearful and consuming task of fighting and staying alive, those men did not think of the battle in terms of the big Picture represented on the situation maps at higher headquarters. They knew only what they could see and hear in the chaos of the battle around them.

They knew and understood the earth for which they fought, the advantage of holding the high ground and the protection of the trench or foxhole.

They could distinguish the sounds of the German weffers and the screaming sound of incoming German 88s. And they knew the fear of German artillery rounds falling around them without pattern in the snow.

They knew the satisfying sound of friendly artillery shells passing overhead. They were reassured by the sudden stabs of flame in the night as friendly artillery belched bullets into the air, spreading a glow of flickering light above the blackened trees of the snow-covered forest.

They knew the overwhelming loneliness of the battlefield, the feeling of despair, confusion and the uncertainty that prevails in units in retreat.

They knew first hand the violent pounding of the heart, the cold sweat, the trembling of the body and the stark terror that mortal combat brings. Even Mother Nature was their enemy with bitterly cold weather and over-cast skies. The days were short—daylight at 8 and darkness by 4. The nights were long and bitterly cold. Snow, knee-deep, covered the battleground. Overcast skies and heavy fog shrouded the snow-covered limbs of the fir trees in the dark forest.

GIs, their bodies numb, were blue-lipped and chilled to the bone.

At night, the German ground assault was assisted by artificial moonlight created by giant German searchlights bouncing their light off the low-hanging clouds casting an eerie, ghostly light in the fog, over the snow-covered field of battle.

Other nights were ablaze with more flame and noise than one thought possible for man to create.

For a brief moment in history, those men held our nation's destiny in their hands. In the end they did not fail us. They prevailed and the fires of hell were extinguished.

They blew the trumpets that tumbled the walls. Theirs was the face of victory. Super heroes—super patriots. Their legacy—victory in the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army.

But the cost of victory was high. Young Americans answered the angel's trumpet call and were sacrificed on the altar of the god of war—brave heroes whose valor in many cases died unrecognized with them on the battlefield. Young warriors whose names the grim reaper carved on marble tombstones across our land.

It was a time of great sacrifice and in most cases the dead were hardly more than boys.

19,000 new Gold Stars were hung in the windows back home: Mothers who lost their sons; Wives who lost their husbands; And Children who lost their fathers.

Over 23,000 American soldiers were captured during the heat of battle. Prisoners of war who were forced to serve behind barbed wire, in silence and with courage, each in his own way, until the war ended.

Purple Hearts were awarded by the thousands. The snow turned red with American blood. The wounds of 81,000 young Americans in that battle left the "red badge of courage" on the battlefield of the Ardennes.

We are reminded of what their journey through life has left behind for us: a great

nation, a great state and a City Beautiful with freedom and prosperity unknown in the annals of history.

Today, in the quiet of an autumn breeze blowing across Lake Eola, we are gathered here to dedicate a monument and pay tribute to the men this monument represents.

As you look at the monument placed in this beautiful park, also look around you. Look at the old warriors gathered here—they were the vibrant youth of that time—men who were there on that battlefield 55 years ago today. Men like:

PFC Jim Hendrix who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroic action during the battle.

Young, Fuzzy-cheeked lieutenants such as John Newell, a tank commander, and Bill Cain, platoon leader. They were in the armored column of old “blood and guts” Patton as they raced 150 miles under the severest of winter conditions in their valiant effort to relieve Bastogne.

Bob Stevenson, “one of those damned engineers”, an accolade from the German SS Colonel Peiper, about our engineers for blowing bridges and building obstacles at every turn and bend in the road, obstacles that slowed the advance of his SS Panzer column.

Bob has with him today his WWII helmet that he wore during that battle, a helmet with a jagged shrapnel hole in the back of it, a helmet that probably saved him for the scythe of the grim reaper.

And Jim McKeearney, a Mortar Platoon Sgt. in the 101st Airborne Division who just days before had received a battlefield commission while fighting in Holland. As a new lieutenant leading a platoon in the defense of Bastogne, he and his platoon stood as firm as the solid granite pedestal of the monument we dedicate today. To this day he bears the scars of the wounds he received in that battle.

Young American men, hardly more than boys, men such as Harry Meisel and Earl K. Wood, our Orange County Tax Collector, men who wear an Ardennes Battle Star on their European Campaign ribbon for their participation in the battle.

And Angels of Mercy, such as Lieutenant Evelyn Gilberg, an Army Nurse who went to sleep at night sobbing, thinking about the mangled bodies of the young American Soldiers in the field hospital that she had cared for that day.

Men like the lone soldier in Chet Morgan's outfit, digging a foxhole atop a small knoll beside a road. A vehicle loaded with fleeing American soldiers came speeding down the road heading for the rear. The vehicle stopped and the soldiers hollered to him, “the Germans are coming! Come on we have room for you!” He looked up and in words his mother never taught him, replied: “You can stop now because the Germans aren't going past this position while I'm alive! This is the 82nd Airborne Division area.”

These soldiers, and the thousands of others like them, are the soldiers who stood their ground in the days when the heavens were falling and the battlefield was in flames with all the fire and noise humanly possible for over a million warriors to create. These are the men who in the hours when the earth's foundation shook like an earthquake, stood their ground.

These are the men who followed duty's call and lived the code of the soldier. They sacrificed and paid the price for freedom. They stayed—and the earth became theirs again. They defended and what was abandoned—they recaptured. They saved the sum of all things we hold dear—and all this for love of

their country—and the meager pay of a soldier.

Ask yourselves now—with head bowed—From where, Oh God, came such men as these?

Our Country was truly blessed.

Today we gather here to dedicate a monument. A monument that stands as a legacy to the Greatest Battle Ever fought By The United States Army and to those veterans who fought and won that battle with their blood and their courage.

But let also stand as a reminder to future generations of the high cost of freedom.

God bless the United States of America.

REMEMBERING RUSSELL A.
FREEMAN

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this year California has lost one of its finest attorneys and the Congress has lost a good friend and adviser.

In mid March, Russell A. Freeman passed away at his home near Los Angeles. As the General Counsel of Security Pacific Corporation, Russ Freeman, in the mid-1980s and early 1990s, undertook many of the early steps at broadening the range of bank product and service offerings in order to strengthen the banking charter and meet customer demands. Much of his legal work set the intellectual and practical foundation for the landmark financial legislation that passed the Congress just this past year.

Security Pacific, based in Los Angeles, was the nation's fifth largest banking firm and produced many new business and consumer innovations. Moving from his native New York, Russ Freeman joined the bank in 1959 and rose from staff attorney to General Counsel. By his work there for some 33 years, he demonstrated those somewhat rare values today of loyalty and commitment.

Russ Freeman received many accolades and awards over the years, including Outstanding Corporate Counsel from the L.A. County Bar. More significant, however, Russ Freeman served as mentor to numerous attorneys who are now working in various financial and non-financial firms across the country. He instilled in these attorneys—and in his corporate and legal colleagues—a strong work ethic, a demand for excellence in legal analysis and the need to conduct one's work in a professional manner. And he communicated these values in a fashion that earned him the highest respect and regard. This represents an important legacy for the banking and legal communities. Russ represented his company with tenacity, honesty and creativity and he was a strong advocate for the banking industry.

Russ Freeman frequently provided input to me and to other members of the House and Senate on banking and financial issues. He brought the straight story, good or bad, and we relied on him for accurate information and new ideas. His vision reinforced the impetus in Congress to improve financial services regulation to the benefit of consumers and to keep

our banking system the strongest in the world. We have lost a good friend with the death of Russ Freeman.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to his many friends and colleagues and, particularly, to his son, James, daughter, Elizabeth, and granddaughter, Katelynn.

NON-PROFIT RELIEF ACT OF 2000

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which will provide much needed postage rate relief for nonprofit mailers. The measure will protect nonprofit or preferred mailers from double-digit rate increases. My legislation is identical to legislation introduced in the Senate, S. 2686, on June 7, 2000, by Senator THAD COCHRAN, the Chairman, and Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA, the Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Subcommittee on International Security Proliferation and Federal Services. I am pleased to be joined in the introduction of this bill by Congressman STENY H. HOYER, Ranking Minority Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, and Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS and Congressman MAJOR R. OWENS, both members of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service.

The practice of designating certain types of mail for preferred rates was initiated by the Congress over 50 years ago. In 1993, deficit reduction legislation eliminated federal financial support for nonprofit mailers, but mandated that nonprofit rates be lower than rates for commercial mailers.

In January of this year, the United States Postal Service (USPS) Board of Governors proposed postage rate increases for all classes of mail. The USPS formally filed the rate request which is pending before the Postal Rate Commission (PRC). Under the current rate request, rates for nonprofits will surpass rates for corresponding commercial mail. The USPS attributed the increase to inaccurate cost data. However, to its credit, the Postal Service has requested and proposed legislation to fix the “rate anomaly.” Without the legislation, the nonprofit periodical preferred rate will disappear.

The Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, the Magazine Publishers of America, National Federation of Nonprofits, Direct Marketing Association, and the Association of Postal Commerce have worked with the USPS to draft an acceptable legislative solution to the nonprofit rate problem in the current rate case before the PRC. The compromise between nonprofit and commercial postage rates, is supported by the above organizations.

By locking in the current rate relationship between nonprofit and commercial postage rates, we will protect all categories of nonprofit mail from future rate shock. Specifically, the bill would set nonprofit and classroom Periodical rates at 95 percent of the commercial counterpart rate, excluding the advertising portion, set nonprofit Standard A rates at 60 percent of the commercial Standard A rates, and