Today, O’Fallon is a community of 20,000 people. It continues to grow because of its proximity to Scott Air Force Base and St. Louis. It sits beside I-64 and boasts three interchange exits where large commercial and retail developments are clustered. O’Fallon also is home to the O’Fallon Township High School, which is recognized as one of the top high schools in the region. The high school is also home to the Marching Panthers Band, which has won several national awards and is a regular participant in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City.

The City of O’Fallon continues the growth and development envisioned by Captain O’Fallon. The rail line he developed, continues to run through the community delivering vital commerce and supplies to areas to the west.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the community and the people of the City of O’Fallon.

DEATH TAX ELIMINATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the fundamental unfairness of the Death Tax. This is a tax that preys upon small business owners, farmers, women, minorities, and families in mourning. There is no question. Our current system of death taxation is simply inexcusable. No family or child should be forced to pay for the death of a loved one. Yet, this is precisely what happens.

One of the founding principles that our forefathers invoked when founding our nation was that of “No taxation without representation.” In a perverse way, the Death Tax is quite possibly the clearest violation of this principle that has ever been passed into law. For, if you are dead, who can possibly represent you?

This is a tax that attacks the very foundation of small business. There are some in this body from the other party who often claim that this tax only affects the rich. Well, that is simply untrue. I wonder how many Democrats actually believe that small family farms are rich?

How many cattlemen are rich? How many restaurant owners are rich? These are the people who this ghoulish tax affects.

These are our brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and parents. These people are our neighbors. These people are ordinary American citizens. The truth is, those who actually have the money can actually afford to find ways to circumvent this tax. Those small businessmen who live on the financial margins cannot.

Furthermore, the Death Tax acts as a disincentive to saving. Who would want to save for their children their whole life only to have up to forty percent of their savings confiscated at death? Under the current policy, vacations and fungible assets actually provide a higher return than saving your money for your children. This is outrageous.

Some on the other side of the aisle cry, “The sky is falling!” when the elimination of this onerous tax is mentioned. Who are they kidding? The sky is nowhere close to falling. Since 1940, inflation adjusted tax revenues of the United States government have risen by 2000%!

The fact remains, eliminating the Death Tax will actually help families, small businessmen, and the economy. For instance, according to a WEFA Group U.S. Macroeconomic Model and the Washington University Macro Model, the U.S. economy would have increased its output by another eleven billion dollars a year had we eliminated the Death Tax in 1996. Furthermore, America could well have seen increases of an average of eight billion dollars in personal income levels if we had done this.

Mr. Speaker, it’s time to end the Death Tax. Let’s give it a wake and bury it this year. The fedl stink of this tax is simply too much to put up with any longer.

HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, the following message is from Steve Nisenfeld, father of Bryan Nisenfeld for whom Bryan’s law is named and which was incorporated into H.R. 4504.

The family and friends of Bryan Nisenfeld wish to express their extreme gratitude to all the advocates, aids, Congressmen and staffers who worked diligently on Bryan’s Law. We firmly believe this bill is very important. Its passage will provide increased protection for missing students who might otherwise be overlooked by the university’s staff, faculty or security force. In the case of Bryan Nisenfeld, there was an egregious failure. Bryan Nisenfeld was unreported as missing by Roger Williams University for six agonizing days though administrators at the university were aware of threats made against his life.

University administrators, by their own admission, overlooked the threatening phone calls Bryan received prior to his disappearance. This response by Roger Williams University denied Bryan’s family an opportunity to intervene on Bryan’s behalf and maybe save his life. At the very least, Roger Williams University, by its failure to report Bryan missing on a timely basis denied trained professionals time to immediately launch a search for him. We know that time is an essential ingredient used by law enforcement in locating a person.

The actions of Roger Williams University officials delayed this important process.

The Nisenfelds hope that Bryan’s Law will prevent other parents from experiencing the pain and anguish the Nisenfelds suffered. This law requires all universities and colleges implement policies that protect missing students. It also provides information to parents and students searching for a safe college to attend. The Nisenfelds hope and pray the law continues through the legislative channels and wins approval in the Senate. Bryan Nisenfeld was a caring, giving individual who rallied behind social causes. The Nisenfelds believe passage of this bill speaks for Bryan’s character. We thank you all. Bryan Nisenfeld’s memory will forever live on. Thank you all.

FLAG DAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on Flag Day, to remind all Americans to pause and pay their respects to the banner that has come to symbolize the freedom and liberty that we hold so dear.

June 14, 2000, marks the 223rd birthday of the U.S. Flag. In 1777, less than a year after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and more than a decade before the Constitution was finalized, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes pattern for the national flag. Flag Day was first celebrated in the year of the flag’s centennial, 1877. After that, many citizens and organizations advocated the adoption of a national day of commemoration for the U.S. Flag. However, it was not until 1949 that President Harry Truman signed legislation officially making Flag Day a day for us to remember what the Stars and Stripes stand for, and honor those who gave their lives for them.

The brother of one such brave soldier from my district contacted me recently to relate to me the great patriotism and love for his country of his fallen family member, Joseph G. Serketch, who was killed in a World War II battle in Metz, France, on November 17, 1944. During his basic training at Camp Swift, TX, he sent a letter to the Father of his church back home in Wisconsin that exemplifies how those soldiers felt about their flag, and reminds all of us of its true meaning.

On July 31, 1942, Pvt. Serketch wrote of what he felt was the army’s most moving ceremony at the end of the day retreat. His words ring as true today as they did when they were written:

There the men all stand in formation, facing the flag of our country. While the colors are being lowered the men stand at attention and present arms. . . . The thrill comes when one stares at the flag there high in the sky, he wonders what is it there for. What does it mean? Liberty, freedom, happiness and freedom of religion. . . . I will fight to defend it whenever an enemy tries to take it from us. I will die for it as Christ died for me.... All the red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation. My White
My stars are clustered together, unifying 50 stripes signify the burning tears shed by the people we lost their sons. My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly. My stars are clustered together, unifying 50 states as one, for God and country.

Keep aloft the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy. Worship eternal God and keep His commandments.

And I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind.

—Author Unknown.

I would like to thank Paul Serketich for bringing these tributes to my attention. Each day as the flag is raised in front of our government buildings, schools, and businesses and as we put our right hands over our hearts and pledge our allegiance, we will be reminded not only of those who fought and died for all that our flag represents, but of the freedom that they bought with their lives.

DEATH TAX ELIMINATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I have a rather personal interest in this legislation, and I have heard a lot from the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means about what we owe our children, so I have come to the well this morning and apologize to my children, I have 5, and 10 grandchildren.

I am probably one of the few Members of the House who started out poor, I used to say I was so poor as a kid I never slept alone until I was married. But through good luck and the action of commerce, I was able to amass what most of the people in my district would call a fortune. And I have not paid much tax on that. I pay income tax each year. I pay more income tax than you pay me salary, but most of what I have was accumulated through capital gains, and I have not sold it. I do not intend to.

My kids will get it pretty much free. So I apologize because I am going to vote against this. Kids, to Jeff and Bea and Thekla and Sarah, Fortney and the 10 grandkids, you are going to have to pay some tax. This is a little family business, it might be 7 figures, but you are going to get a down payment on that from your mother and me of $1,350,000 free. You have not worked a day in your life for that.

You have a college education, down payment on your homes, cars, but you have not worked worth squat. First you are going to get a million to a million and a half bucks. Then you are going to get half of the business free. You may have to pay 50 to 55 percent tax on the balance. Next you are going to get 10 years to pay off that balance at a below prime interest rate. And, kids, if you are so dumb that you cannot run that business with over a 50 percent down payment given to you and 10 years to pay off the balance at a low rate, you do not deserve it.

You ought to have been trained in this country to earn your own way and pay your taxes every day so that Dad can have a prescription drug benefit and a decent nursing home so you do not have to worry about taking care of me in my dotage.

There are not very many Members of Congress that are going to pay any inheritance tax. This is a gift to the rich not for independent, smart kids as I have raised.

EXPRESSIONS OF CONGRESS REGARDING BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

SPEECH OF HON. STENVY H. HOYER OF MARYLAND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 266 to recognize the great benefits of music education. Americans are known around the world for our unique contributions to modern music. But we are far behind many other industrialized Nations in recognizing the educational benefits of teaching music to our children. In Japan, it is mandated by the Ministry of Education that every child, grades one through nine, receive two hours a week of music instruction. In Germany students must take two, 45-minute classes of music education a week.

Unfortunately, in America, the trend over the last several years has been to cut back on music education programs. This is occurring despite mounting evidence that music education can actually alter brain development in children and improve their reasoning skills. A study from the University of California at Irvine found that elementary school students in Los Angeles who took piano lessons boosted their math performance. From the body of data available, researchers have concluded that there are genuine long-term changes in the wiring of the brain that enhance children's abilities to understand how patterns work in time and space. The educational benefits are clear and according to a recent Gallup poll, nine in ten Americans believe that music education should be a part of every student's day.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of working with the GRAMMY Foundation, the non-profit arm of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. The GRAMMY Foundation is dedicated to advancing music education in schools. We recently held an event here on Capitol Hill to announce that the New American schools, a non-profit corporation established by President Bush to identify new ways of teaching, has welcomed the GRAMMY Foundation's Leonard Bernstein centers for artful learning into their portfolio of cutting-edge educational models. The GRAMMY Foundation brings music to thousands of children through their "GRAMMY In The Schools" program which exposes high schools students to careers in the music industry.

And the Foundation created Smart Symphonies, a classical music CD based on brain research to benefit the development of infants. I applaud the efforts of the GRAMMY Foundation to make music and art education available for all children.

Mr. Speaker, I support this Resolution in the hope that children of all ages across this nation will have access to quality music education programs. If we foster the creative impulses of our children, the possibilities of their success in life will be boundless.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. ANTHONY C. ZINNI

HON. IKE SKELTON OF MISSOURI IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Gen. Anthony C. Zinni, who will retire from the U.S. Marine Corps on August 11, 2000, after more than 35 years of devoted service to the Nation.

General Zinni was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from Villanova University in 1965. After completion of The Basic School, he was assigned to the 2d Marine Division. In 1967, General Zinni served in Vietnam with an Infantry Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps. Following his tour in Vietnam, he was ordered to The Basic School as a Tactics Instructor and Platoon Commander. In 1970, he returned to Vietnam where he was wounded and subsequently assigned to the 3d Force Service Regiment on Okinawa. One year later, General Zinni was again assigned to the 2d Marine Division as a Company Commander. In 1974, he was assigned to the Manpower Department at Headquarters, Marine Corps.

Following the Vietnam war, General Zinni served in succession of influential staff and command positions, including: Commanding Officer of the 2d Battalion, 8th Marines; Operations and Tactics Instructor at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College; Head of the Special Operations and Terrorism Counterterrorism Section; Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group fellow; Regimental Commander of the 9th Marines; Commanding Officer of the 35th Marine Expeditionary Unit; and Chief of Staff of the Marine Air-Ground Training and Education Center.

Upon promotion to flag rank in 1991, General Zinni was named the Deputy Director of Operations at the United States European Command. In 1991, he served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commanding General during the Kurdish relief effort in Turkey and Iraq and also acted as the Military Coordinator for the relief effort for the former Soviet Union. From 1992 to 1993, he served as the Director for Operations for the Unified Task Force Somalia and as the Assistant to the Special Envoy to Somalia. His next assignment was as the Deputy Commanding General, United States Marine Corps Combat Development Command. After that, he assumed command of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, during which he served as Commander of the Combined Task Force responsible for protecting the withdrawal of United Nations forces from Somalia.

In September 1996, General Zinni was assigned to the United States Central Command and subsequently assumed command in 1997. In addition to continuing no-fly and maritime interdiction operations over Iraq, General Zinni...