

assigned to Brussels where he worked for DG II, DG III and then the President's Cabinet. In February 1999 he was appointed Head of our London Information Office.

Chris leaves an indelible impression on his very many friends amongst Members and staff. A convinced European from the first hour, he was a fine public servant with strong convictions. Demanding of others, he gave of himself. Always dedicated to his work, he inspired loyalty and affection in his colleagues, even though his habit of asking difficult questions would sometimes put his hierarchy in a spin.

But it is as a great and loyal friend that we remember him: his love of life, his kindness, his enthusiasm for everything from skiing to books or to good-natured gossip over a good meal. To this list of qualities, and to his wonderful sense of humour, I must add his extraordinary courage and fortitude, particularly over the last two years. I saw him a week before he died, frail but still with his ineradicable sense of humour and bravery.

We will all miss him deeply.

JULIAN PRIESTLEY,  
*Secretary General.*

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VINCE  
BAKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to an icon of the Pueblo, Colorado community. Vince Baker recently passed away at the age of 88, and as his family mourns his loss, I think it is appropriate to remember Vince and pay tribute to him for his contributions to his community.

Vince owned and operated Vince Baker Motors, a car dealership located in Pueblo. He went on to become President of Modern Trailer Sales, Director of Western Acceptance Corporation, and managed a regional General Motors distributorship. Vince's success was evident in the creation of over 30 automobile agencies in Colorado and New Mexico.

Vince's true love was working and interacting with people. This became clear later in his life when Vince served as a motivational speaker and a writer. His communication skills served as motivational tools for others that were widely used throughout the automobile industry. In addition, Vince was a contributing writer for a motor magazine for over eight years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we remember Vince Baker. He was known for his kind heart and a gentle demeanor he displayed throughout his life. Vince Baker will be remembered and missed not only by his family but also by a grateful community.

IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION TAX  
CREDITS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my excitement for the next phase of education reform which will empower parents to make the best educational choices for their children. The bill before us today, the "No Child Left Behind Act," will offer some small measure of parental options in the form of supplemental services for after-school tutoring and other educational resources. These reforms are an important step toward educational choice, but the real victory for American schoolchildren will be found in the Administration's next education reform initiative—education tax credits.

Shortly after President Bush took office in January of this year, he announced an innovative plan to offer children in failing schools the option of attending a private school of their choice. The proposal would have implemented much needed competition into our education system today and would have benefited all schoolchildren, public and private alike. Unfortunately, the President's proposal is not a part of the bill before us today. I am pleased to report, however, the President has indicated his full support and leadership for parental choice through tax credits in the next session of the 107th Congress.

In the remainder of my time, I'd like to discuss some of the promising benefits and opportunities afforded children through education tax credit legislation.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the current tax system financially penalizes parents who send their children to schools other than the government-owned schools assigned to their children. A tax credit for educational expenses would allow parents to redirect their own money to pay expenses at a school that best meets the needs of their child.

Parents across the country are becoming increasingly concerned about their children's education. More than \$125 billion in federal funds have been directed toward K-12 education programs over the past 25 years, but these increases in financial investment have not been accompanied by similar gains in student achievement. American children languish far behind their international peers in math and science; the racial achievement gap on test scores is widening; and test scores on the nation's report card (the National Assessment of Educational Progress) have remained largely stagnant over the past 20 years.

Any business that received such poor profit margins in return for such large financial investments would be forced to close its doors, yet the federal government continues to funnel billions of American taxpayer dollars annually toward the government's education monopoly.

Additional money, resources and programs—with all of the attached federal regulations and mandates—will not solve the nation's education crisis. These methods have been tested and tried without positive results. Fundamental changes to the structure of our education system are needed and this can

only happen by relying on the power of free markets by empowering parents with the ability to select the best school options for their children, whether it is a government-owned, private or home school.

Education tax credits are emerging as one of the most effective vehicles to encourage parental choice in education around the country. To date, six states have enacted some form of tax credit for elementary and secondary educational expenses—Arizona, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Florida and Pennsylvania. A tax credit at the federal level would enable families to save on their federal income taxes, which are typically much higher than state income taxes. Nine states do not have a state income tax, therefore, a federal tax credit is their only option to receive educational assistance in this form. Moreover, federal education tax credits can provide a massive cash infusion toward a competitive, free-market education system in America.

Mr. Speaker, there are many different kinds of tax credits, including credits for educational expenses incurred by families and credits for individual and corporate donations to educational scholarship foundations. The details of the President's legislation are forthcoming, but I think if we look to the example of education tax credits in the states, we will observe the exciting educational opportunities for children. In Arizona, for example, the state legislature passed a \$500 tax credit for donations to scholarship foundations. The law has been effective since 1997, and since that time the number of scholarship organizations has grown from 2 to 34. Nearly \$14 million was raised during that time through the donations of 30,000 taxpayers. Arizona's tax credit could potentially raise \$75 million in scholarships annually, according to some estimates.

Another indication of the promise of tax credits is the overwhelming public support for such opportunities. A recent poll by McLaughlin and Associates, however, shows broad based support for education tax credits that cuts across party lines, ideologies, income levels, age and race. The poll found that seven out of 10 likely voters support providing \$2,000 tax credits per child for all educational expenses, including tuition. Self-described liberals gave a 70 percent approval rating for the concept. African-Americans and households earning under \$40,000 a year also show very high numbers of support (76.5 percent and 75 percent, respectively).

The corporate tax credit concept for donations to scholarship foundations or local schools had widespread approval ratings in the poll, as well. Nearly three in four Americans surveyed supported the idea, with more than 78 percent approval among blacks and 80 percent approval among Hispanics.

Education tax credit programs have withstood challenges in court, as well. Six consecutive court challenges have gone in favor of tax credit legislation. The courts have found that tax credits merely allow families to keep a greater portion of their own private money and do not involve the transfer of public funds to schools or individuals.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, education tax credits bypass the potential threat of government meddling. Many private school administrators are afraid to accept government assistance

due to the threat of greater government regulation that would compromise the autonomy and integrity of the school. Vouchers are particularly susceptible to government regulation. In Milwaukee, for example, schools involved in the district's voucher program are required to permit students to "opt-out" of religious activities—in effect, watering down the curriculum of the schools. Education tax credits, however, are more insulated from government regulation than vouchers because tax credits involve private money and do not constitute "public" spending.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this time to discuss the future of education reform in America. We have all seen the effects of a government monopoly on our education system, and it isn't good. The absence of competition only benefits bureaucrats, not children. The time has come to give parents the option of sending their children to the schools of their choice, and I look forward to working with the President to successfully passing education tax credit legislation in the coming year.

R. LAWRENCE COUGHLIN, JR.

**HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in this special order honoring our former colleague, R. Lawrence Coughlin. I want to thank Mr. GEKAS for organizing this special order.

Larry Coughlin represented a suburban Philadelphia district in the House of Representatives for 24 years. He was a gracious gentleman who represented his constituents with integrity and wisdom.

Mr. Coughlin had a remarkable background. Raised on a farm in Pennsylvania, he earned a degree in economics from Yale and an MBA from Harvard. He subsequently attended night school at Temple University to get his law degree while working during the day as a foreman in a steel plant. His academic accomplishments speak to his energy and ability.

Mr. Coughlin was also a dedicated public servant. He served in the Marines in Korea during the Korean war as an aide-de-camp to legendary Marine Lt. General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller. He served ably in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate before running for—and winning—a seat in Congress in 1968.

During his 12 terms in Congress, Representative Coughlin served on the House Judiciary Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. He was particularly active in working to increase federal housing and transportation assistance to our nation's cities. Mr. Coughlin understood that even affluent suburbs like the ones he represented depend upon central cities for their continued economic well-being. Our Nation is healthier and more prosperous as a result of his service in Congress.

Larry Coughlin was always a quite, upbeat, courteous man. It was an honor and a pleasure to serve in the House of Representatives

with him. I join my colleagues in mourning his passing.

DIETARY SUPPLEMENT TAX  
FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased yesterday to be joining my colleague from Indiana, Mr. BURTON, in introducing this important legislation that will help shift the focus of our healthcare system to wellness and disease prevention. This legislation is the House companion to the Harkin-Hatch Senate bill, S. 1330.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been supportive of dietary supplements and the potential and promise they bring to our healthcare. I always participate in actively leading the effort for progressive reforms, like we did with the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). The prime significance of this simple legislation is that the Internal Revenue Code will be modified in order to allow health insurers to create benefits that would provide some coverage for dietary supplements for insurance beneficiaries. Health insurers will not be required to provide coverage under this legislation. However, they will be now in a position to do it in a way that will provide the tax benefits to both the consumer and the insurer.

Unfortunately, the Internal Revenue Code is not consumer friendly when it comes to health wellness and prevention. And if we are ever going to take meaningful roads to promote good health, wellness, and disease prevention, the Tax Code needs to be examined and reformed. This legislation is enormously popular with consumers who continually ask their insurance companies to offer some coverage for these healthcare products. Without passage of this legislation, they will not be able to obtain this type of insurance and healthcare benefit.

The low up-front cost of this coverage and the potential long-term savings they offer by assisting our country in staying healthy longer will indeed be a meaningful step to lowering and stabilizing our health care costs. This bipartisan legislation is an important part of realizing the requests of millions of Americans who want to enhance their healthcare. I look forward to working with my colleague for prompt and swift passage of this legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAUL  
LINDSTROM

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to take this opportunity and pay respect to the life and memory of Paul Lindstrom who recently passed away in Grand Junction, Colorado on November 21, 2001. Paul will always be remembered as a

dedicated friend and leader to several Colorado communities. His passing is a great loss for those who knew Paul and relied on him for his strength and good nature in times of hardship and prosperity.

Paul graduated from Centennial High School in Pueblo, CO in 1934. Dreaming of flying his entire life, he moved to the West Coast to become a pilot. With his license and flight experience in hand, Paul returned to Parachute, Colorado and entered into the flying profession. Upon completing his instructor's license, Paul took his first job with Feeney Flying School at Pueblo Airport. This began a long flying career for Paul that eventually led to training aviation cadets for World War II, flying private charters, crop dusting, and even uranium prospecting in Wyoming.

Later in life, Paul went on a different career path becoming a dude rancher in New Castle, Colorado, where he developed a popular campground for the KOA chain. His service in the guest industry gave Paul much gratification in his life. He loved to work and mingle with people, and was always known as a friend to everyone. To his family, he was known as a kind and caring patriarch who is survived by wife Bertha, three children, five grandchildren, nine step grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Lindstrom passed away in Grand Junction after a long struggle with an illness. Yet despite his battle, Paul was able to live his dream of flying and raised a large and loving family. He will be missed by the many he touched with his sense of humor and positive attitude. I extend my condolences to Paul Lindstrom's family, friends, and the communities he blessed in the State of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO NORMANTOWN  
ELEMENTARY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Normantown Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Normantown Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Normantown Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Normantown Elementary.