

years, an amount that is by no means guaranteed. Second, the great majority of the tax relief would go to the wealthiest Americans.

The Bush proposal is not the only way to implement an across-the-board tax cut. The legislation I have introduced would provide tax relief to all working Americans in the form of a tax credit based on the amount paid in Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes, up to \$300 per individual and \$600 per couple filing jointly. At a cost of approximately \$40 billion per year, this credit would mean tax relief for each and every American who pays into Social Security and Medicare, but would not tie up the entire expected surplus. If for some reason the surplus does not meet current projections a few years down the road, we will not face a sudden deficit. In addition, there will be enough left over for other top priorities such as creating a prescription drug benefit under Medicare and improving America's schools.

Importantly, this proposal will benefit the three-quarters of Americans who pay more in payroll taxes than in income tax. Unlike the Bush proposal, in which the top five percent of Americans would receive fifty percent of the tax cut, my bill will offer everyone who currently pays into Social Security and Medicare a credit of up to \$300, even if they owe no income tax. The worker at the bottom of the income scale will receive the same dollar credit as the highest-paid CEO. Of course, \$300 means much more to someone making the minimum wage.

Much has been said recently about the need for an across-the-board tax cut to stimulate the economy. Experts agree that the best way to do this is to put more money immediately in the hands of those who will pump it back into the economy. A \$2 trillion tax cut for the wealthy that provides only \$21 billion in relief in the first year will not accomplish this goal. A refundable payroll tax credit, which does not exclude lower- and middle-income workers, is what our country needs. I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense proposal.

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TRIBUTE TO MARY COZZOLINO

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2001*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise today in recognition of Mary Cozzolino and her ongoing dedication to serving the growing needs of families in Central New Jersey. I applaud the achievements she has made working to address the diverse needs of a growing community.

Recently, Mary was elevated from Deputy Mayor to Mayor of Manalapan; thus becoming the youngest female ever elected to public office in New Jersey, as well as the youngest elected official in Monmouth County.

Mary became involved in Manalapan politics when she noticed that the township's leadership had become complacent and developers were being treated better than the residents. Mary was dedicated to bringing a different kind of politics to Manalapan, a politics where

people mattered and the interests of the public are paramount.

Mary currently serves as vice-chair of the Young Dems of Monmouth County. In this capacity she works to elevate the interests of young people to actively participate in politics. Speaking at various youth forums throughout New Jersey, Mary highlights the importance for young people to begin shaping public debate on issues of concern.

Mary has worked in varying capacities on a wide range of public interest issues. She has served as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG). Mary has also served as a Campaign Organizer for NJPIRG and she even spent some time working in Washington to address national issues with the United States Public Interest Research Group.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of Mayor Mary Cozzolino and ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing her steadfast commitment to serving our community.

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TRIBUTE TO DIANA S. CLARK

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2001*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Diana S. Clark, former President of the Dallas chapter of the League of Women Voters, the Texas League of Women Voters and recipient of the Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award for her years of exceptional service. Mrs. Clark passed away on January 16, 2001 at the age of 71.

Although not a native Texan, Mrs. Clark provided meaningful and significant service to Texas and its people. She began her extensive community service in 1965 and served on boards and commissions including the Waters Resources Council, the Texas Adult Probation Commission, Women's issues network, the Older Women's League and the Dallas Alliance. She was a founding member of the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center League. For twenty years, she was a volunteer mediator with the Dispute Mediation Service. During her tenure, she mediated civil matters and served as President and a member of the board.

She also served on the advisory board for the Judicial Advisory Council of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and was appointed to the Commission of Judicial Efficiency. Although not a lawyer, the Dallas Young Lawyers Association honored her with its Dallas Liberty Bell Award, which is presented annually to a nonlawyer who has made the most selfless contribution to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of justice.

I served on several volunteer organizations with Mrs. Clark. Because I knew her and her work well, I am deeply saddened that Texas has lost a veteran community leader. I ask the House to join me in remembering and paying tribute to Diana Clark, a great advocate.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN CRANSTON

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2001*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Alan Cranston, who died at the age of eighty-six on December 31, 2000, represented California in the United States Senate from 1969 until 1993. In addition to a distinguished political career, Alan was an accomplished writer and journalist, businessman, international advisor, and leader in the movement to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Alan was effective in everything he pursued because he had the intelligence to understand conceptual complexities and the pragmatism to achieve what he wanted. He and Pat Brown rejuvenated the California Democratic Party and led it to power in 1958. My own experience with Alan goes back to 1960 when I was a student at UCLA and he was a model for young Democrats to follow. We were both active in the California Democratic Council, a grassroots party organization, and I was grateful for the personal support he gave me a number of years later when I decided to run for public office.

I learned from Alan that the enactment of good legislation could not be accomplished without attracting good people to our party. He was a visionary in knowing how to help build a party to lead California, but he also worked hard on the everyday nuts and bolts decisions that would make it happen. He brought the same skills to the U.S. Senate in 1968. He was a visionary in shaping the debate on great issues—the Vietnam War, nuclear proliferation, the rights of the disabled, medical care for veterans—and he served as the Majority Whip for fourteen years. He was a consummate vote counter and leadership strategist, and he had a hand in crafting and moving some of the most important legislation enacted while he served.

Lance Murrow once said, "Leaders make things possible. Great leaders make them inevitable." By every estimation, Alan Cranston was a great leader.

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COMMENDING FEDERAL JUDGE J. ROBERT ELLIOTT UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2001*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, the lives of some public men are like sandy riverbanks. They are swept molded and sometimes even swept away by the swirling currents of popular passion and trendy opinion.

Others are like breakwaters. Their lives are built on principles that keep them steadily in place even in the face of such a torrent.

U.S. Judge J. Robert Elliott is just such a man. He retired this December at age 91 from the U.S. Federal Court in Columbus making him the longest-serving judge in the Federal Courts' history. During this long career, he

was faced with many difficult and politically charged cases ranging from civil rights, to the My Lai Massacre in Vietnam, and more recently, protest marches at the School of the Americas.

Judge Elliott is the son of a Methodist preacher and began developing those solid principles at his father's knee. They continued to be molded during the depths of Great Depression as he first worked as a teacher and then later as he attended and was a graduate from Emory University Law School. Through it all he developed a profound respect for the absolute necessity of distinguishing between right and wrong, the value of hard work, the importance of common sense, and the indispensable nature of the rule of law in a free society.

These principles continued to serve him after he was appointed as a Federal judge. Judge Elliott worked 51 weeks a year for almost four decades on the bench. He did all of his own research and writing, unlike many other Federal judges who rely on law clerks.

He ruled his courtroom with common sense as well as a dry sense of humor. The Columbus Ledger Enquirer recounts that an attorney once approached the bench to whisper: "Your honor, one of the jurors is asleep."

"It seems so," Judge Elliott replied.

"Aren't you going to wake him up?" the lawyer asked.

"You put him to sleep—you wake him up," Judge Elliott responded.

Judge Elliott's commitment to the rule of law was put to the test after President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the Federal Bench in 1962. The civil rights campaign was beginning to heat up with marches, demonstrations, and outbreaks of violence. Judge Elliott was steeped in the Southern traditions of those times. As Governor Herman Talmadge's floor leader in the Georgia House, he had taken strong positions on such issues, even advocating a "Whites only" primary.

But when he raised his hand and swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States, this obligation superceded any personal opinions or past political positions. He proved that a man of integrity would enforce laws that he might have opposed in the past. He had sworn to uphold the law and he stood by his oath ordering desegregation of businesses, schools and public places.

His rulings were not always without controversy as he applied common sense to try to bring a balance between the competing interests of public safety and the right to protest. He issued an injunction stopping marches in Albany, GA to try and cool dangerously heated passions, but later ordered the City of Albany to stop arresting peaceful civil rights marchers. He ordered districts to desegregate schools. Despite sharp criticism from both sides of the controversy, the appellate courts eventually vindicated him.

Later, when the nation was most deeply divided by the Vietnam War, Judge Elliott courageously overturned the military conviction of Lt. William Calley for the 1971 My Lai Massacre in South Vietnam because the fierce pre-trial publicity had robbed the defendant of any chance for a fair trial.

Judge Elliott was not afraid to take on big corporations. When he learned that chemical

giant DuPont had concealed evidence during a 1993 civil trial concerning the fungicide Benlate, he slapped the firm with a \$115 million penalty. Prior to his decision, DuPont had taken out numerous full-page advertisements declaring its innocence. The company's refusal to accept responsibility led Judge Elliott to offer a decrease in the penalty if the firm published full-page ads admitting it was wrong. DuPont still balked at the advertisements, but was eventually forced to settle the lawsuit and pay a multi-million-dollar fine.

Most recently Judge Elliott has displayed his rare blend of respect for the law, common sense and compassion in dealing with the annual protests at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning. He was lenient with first-time offenders, but hard on the demonstrators who repeatedly trespassed on military property. He sentenced several of them to prison, living up to his nickname, "Maximum Bob."

Judge Elliott's rulings may have generated some comment over the years, but not because he wasn't consistent in his insistence on the rule of law. We live in a day when truth is constantly undermined by "deconstruction"; the meaning of the word "is" is subject to re-definition; and so-called legal scholars advocate that the Constitution be stretched and "reinterpreted" to fit any transient political whim. We should be grateful for a principled man like Judge J. Robert Elliott whose lifetime of service reminds us that the Constitution and the law actually mean what they say.

Judge Elliott had been an elected politician before ascending to the bench and he knew the difference between being a legislator and a jurist. He understood that as a politician, his duty was to make laws, but as a judge, his job was to fairly apply the law, as written by the legislators, in his courtroom. This critical distinction has become obscured in recent years because too many judges have taken to legislating from the bench and, in the process, attempting to rewrite laws to suit their personal preferences.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, but especially during his four decades on the federal bench, Judge J. Robert Elliott has been a credit to his native state of Georgia, and the community of Columbus. His departure is our loss. My hope is that the President and the other body will refer to Judge Elliott's example as they consider future judicial appointments. My prayer is that all such future appointees will have Judge Elliott's reverence for our Constitution and the rule of the law and his personal characteristics of hard work, integrity. If they do, we will have judges who will be faithful to the call of ensuring justice for all, and will leave legislation to the elected representatives of the people.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE  
VANDERVEER/KNOX HOUSE

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2001*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish today in recognition of the historical importance of the

Revolutionary War era Vanderveer/Knox House. Located on the Lamington Farm in Bedminster, the Vanderveer/Knox House played a significant role in shaping the outcome of the American Revolutionary War.

The town of Bedminster is one of the most important Revolutionary War sites in New Jersey. The town served as the military headquarters for General Knox during the war, where it was used as an artillery range, as well as a training ground for American officers prior to the establishment of West Point.

Recently, during the construction of The Hills housing community, nearly 30,000 Colonial artifacts were unearthed. These items included everything from belt buckles and artillery shells to glass bottles and ceramic pieces. The collection of artifacts will eventually be displayed at the township-owned Vanderveer/Knox House, which is presently being restored through the efforts of many dedicated volunteers.

I would like to take a moment to recognize three individuals whose dedication has played a significant role in preserving this piece of local history; they are Grania Allport, Nancy Buck Pine, and Bunny Price. Without their tireless efforts this project would not enjoy the broad public support that it has.

The house is a fine example of period architecture and construction. It is now being restored carefully and thoughtfully. It has been important in history and will be educationally important into the future.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of everyone involved in the preservation of this significant historical structure.

INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT  
EXILE: THE SAFE STREETS AND  
NEIGHBORHOODS ACT OF 2001

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2001*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing Project Exile: The Safe Streets and Neighborhoods Act, which passed the House overwhelmingly last year. In the last several years, many states, including Virginia, have dramatically reduced the level of gun crime in their communities by implementing programs that ensure mandatory prison time for criminals who use guns during the commission of a violent crime. This approach enforces the laws already on the books, and it ensures a minimum prison sentence of at least five years for convicted violators.

In states and communities around the country where aggressive prosecution of gun crimes has been coupled with tough prison sentences, violent crime has decreased. This program is based upon the remarkably successful experience of the joint federal, state, and local effort in Richmond, Virginia, which witnessed an amazing 40% reduction in its homicide rate since their program's inception in 1997.

Following this model, Project Exile provides \$100 million in federal resources over five years as an incentive for states to implement such programs. It will also defray the costs associated with tougher enforcement against