

HONORING SERGEANT KYLE
THOMAS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sergeant Kyle Thomas, of the Orange County California Sheriff's Department, upon his retirement.

Sergeant Thomas began his career in law enforcement in 1958 when he joined the Alameda County Probation Department. He worked there until volunteering to serve in the United States Army in 1962. A distinguished veteran, Sergeant Thomas was an M.P. in Korea. After being honorably discharged, Sergeant Thomas was hired by the North Orange County Marshal's Department in 1966. Only three short months after being hired, Sergeant Thomas was promoted to Deputy II and assigned to Civil Field Services. For 15 years, Sergeant Thomas worked as a Civil Deputy, handling all types of enforcement duties.

In January of 1981, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. As a Sergeant, his responsibilities have spanned all aspects of North Orange County's operations. Because of his vast knowledge of civil procedure, Sergeant Thomas has become the Department's resident civil expert.

Sergeant Thomas is also an active leader in our community. He is a member of the Latino Peace Officers Association and served as their First Vice President for five years. He has been an active representative for the Association of Deputy Marshal's of Orange County and the State Marshal's Association.

In addition to his professional leadership, Sergeant Thomas also takes the time to keep local youth on a winning path. Since 1969, he has volunteered his services to teach Judo and wrestling at the Anaheim YMCA. He has also volunteered as an Orange Youth Soccer League trainer and currently coaches Judo at the Gemini Judo Club in Yorba Linda.

A resident of Placentia, California, Sergeant Thomas' retirement will bring more time with his wife of 38 years, Virginia, his two children, and three grandchildren.

Sergeant Thomas' exemplary career in law enforcement distinguishes him as a true American hero, worthy of this Congress' praise and gratitude.

RECOGNIZING JANE KRATOCHVIL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize an admirable citizen from the great state of Illinois, Jane Kratochvil. As President Bush releases his Education Plan, "No Child Left Behind," and sets up his Faith Based Liaison Office in the White House that will encourage volunteer work as part of a multi-pronged approach to addressing social challenges, I wanted to take this opportunity to draw your attention to Ms. Kratochvil who is a shining example of selfless volunteerism.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to a very demanding full time job, Ms. Kratochvil spends her unpaid free time working with a program called "The School First Foundation." This non-profit organization helps underserved K-12 schools gain access to technology and teaching resources that serve to improve their learning environment. As part of this program, Jane works extensively in the Chicago inner-city area and travels on occasion to help in the difficult Roxbury district of Boston.

Jane's efforts are commendable. Not only is she touching the lives of the many underprivileged boys and girls she is teaching directly, but her organization is helping to identify and advance educational content that improves learning performance, so in essence, she is helping more students improve their minds and lives than we could ever quantify.

I want to extend my deepest thanks to Jane Kratochvil and all others like her. It is through volunteers like Jane that we will be successful in ensuring that all children receive a quality education and a fair shot at a successful life.

THE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S
MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Tennessee State University Alumni Association. Since its inception in 1923, it has provided guidance and scholarships to alumni both nationally and in the Northeast Ohio region.

The many local chapters of the alumni association have become pillars of our community, often sponsoring soup kitchens and mentoring programs in their neighborhoods. The Tennessee State University Alumni Association has worked tirelessly to help foster a sense of dignity and honor in the young people of their communities.

Countless children have been able to further their education and their futures because of the opportunity to attend college provided by Tennessee State University alumni support. The scholarships which the alumni association sponsors help to mold the lives of youths who might not otherwise have the resources necessary to attend such a fine institution. The intrinsic role that the alumni association has played in the lives of these young people is noteworthy.

The theme of this conference, "Don't Forget The Bridge That Brought You Across . . . Then and Now" gives us reason to reflect upon the many opportunities which we were blessed with throughout our lives. As children, we were all confronted with many challenges, and it is important to remember the people who helped us overcome those hurdles and have allowed us to succeed. The theme of this conference should inspire us to continue to contribute to our communities, to allow us to continue to provide opportunities for our youth, and to strengthen the social fabric of our society.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the Tennessee State University Alumni Association.

A BILL TO REPEAL SECTION 809, WHICH TAXES POLICYHOLDER DIVIDENDS OF MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES, AND TO REPEAL SECTION 815, WHICH APPLIES TO POLICYHOLDER SURPLUS ACCOUNTS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. NEAL, together with a number of our colleagues in introducing our bill, "The Life Insurance Tax Simplification Act of 2001." The bill repeals two sections of the Internal Revenue Code which no longer serve valid tax policy goals. Except for the effective date, the bill is identical to the one we introduced in the 106th Congress.

Congress has taken a major step forward in rewriting the regulatory structure of the financial services industry in the United States. This realignment is already having a positive impact on the way life insurance companies serve their customers, conduct their operations and merge their businesses to achieve greater market efficiencies. Unfortunately, the tax code contains several provisions which no longer represent valid tax policy goals, and in fact are carry-overs from the old tax and regulatory regimes that separated the life insurance industry from the rest of the financial world and differentiated between the stock and mutual segments of the life insurance industry. Today, the lines of competition are not between the stock and mutual segments of the life insurance industry. Rather, life insurers must compete in an aggressive, fast moving global financial services marketplace contrary to the premises underlying these old, outmoded tax rules.

In 1984 Congress enacted Section 809, which imposed an additional tax on mutual life insurers to guarantee that stock life insurers would not be competitively disadvantaged by what was then thought to be the dominant segment of the industry. Section 809 operates by taxing some of the dividends that mutual life insurers pay to their policyholders. When Section 809 was enacted, mutual life insurers held more than half the assets of U.S. life insurance companies. It is estimated that within a few years, life insurers operating as mutual companies are expected to constitute less than ten percent of the industry.

The tax is based on a bizarre formula under which the tax of each mutual life insurer increases if the earnings of its large stock company competitors rise—even when a mutual company's earnings fall. The provision has been criticized by the Treasury Department and others as fundamentally flawed in concept. The original rationale behind the enactment of Section 809 no longer exists. Accordingly, the bill would repeal Section 809.