

**URGING MEMBERS TO SIGN PETITION TO REUNIFY KOREAN-AMERICANS WITH FAMILIES IN NORTH KOREA**

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Stanfield has not seen her brother for 50 years. She is a symbol of the 500,000 Korean-Americans separated from their families in North Korea.

While substantial progress has been made to reunite South-Korean families with their known relatives, nothing has been done for Korean-Americans living in this country. Her cause is our cause, and we have now formed the Korean-American Coalition of the Midwest.

I issue a call to sign our petition to put the reunification of 500,000 families, Korean-American families, with their known relatives on the U.S. DPRK agenda. Together we can make this humanitarian cause our cause.

I salute our Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and his commitment this morning to review this issue.

**SUPPORTING THE SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK RELIEF ACT**

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I often joke that the only thing I hate worse than taxes is burdensome regulations. But our small businesses spend at least 1 billion hours a year filling out government forms. As a businessman myself, I understand the impact that this has on business. Every hour that is really spent on filling out this needless paperwork is an hour that our small business owners could use to grow their business.

In a rural district such as mine, almost all of our businesses are small, and this has a very profound effect. Small businesses need to thrive in order for our communities to prosper in rural America.

The Small Business Paperwork Relief Act that we just passed I hope is the beginning of a new era to be friendly to small business. When we support rural small business we support rural hospitals, we support rural schools, and we support the rural infrastructure that is necessary for our communities to prosper.

That is why this KENNEDY was very happy to vote for the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act.

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**TAX RELIEF IS A HOME RUN FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES**

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Will Rogers once said "baseball is a skilled game. It's America's game, it, and high taxes."

Well, it seems that Will Rogers was right.

Currently, Americans are taxed at the highest levels since World War II.

During a time of projected record surpluses, there is absolutely no reason, no justification for these high taxes.

American families deserve a tax break, and according to recent polls, nearly two out of three Americans want, need and deserve a tax break, but the critics of the tax plan want to keep taking more and more money from hard-working Americans just to pay for their growing, yet inefficient, bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, spring is just around the corner, marking the beginning of the baseball season and, unfortunately, the tax season as well.

Let us hit a home run for Americans. Let us pass meaningful tax relief and help them pay the mortgage, buy a computer, or simply go to school.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the criticisms of the tax relief which only serve to strike out for America's families trying to realize the American dream.

**WE NEED TAX RELIEF**

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor of being visited by the Savannah Christian Middle School, and in the back row of this large crowd of students, there was a young woman named Amy. Amy made about \$20 a day working for her father, but, of course, she only took home about \$16. Mr. Speaker, \$4 going for taxes.

Amy and the other students understood that we in government need taxes to pay for roads and bridges and military and education and all those things. She did not regret that. She did not begrudge that a bit; but I said to her, Amy, if you knew we could do all that, plus debt reduction for \$3.50, what would you want done with the remaining 50 cents? Would you want me to keep it and expand government and take away more rights and privileges from you, or would you like to keep that 50 cents? She said, with all the other students, give it back to me. It is my money.

What a pity that our Washington bureaucracy does not understand this principle. If Amy has that money, what she is going to do is buy more CDs, more hamburgers, more clothes. It adds up.

When she does that, small businesses expand, they create jobs and opportuni-

ties for people. More people work. More people are paying taxes, and it is a win-win.

Mr. Speaker, we need tax relief. It will get the economy moving.

**FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT**

(Mr. GRUCCI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of the Flag Protection Amendment which was introduced earlier this week with the support of 109 of my fellow members.

The Flag amendment embodies the hopes and sacrifices and freedoms of this great Nation. The American flag is more than just a symbol. It is the fabric that binds our Nation, its citizens, and those brave individuals who have sacrificed to preserve our unity and independence.

Mr. Speaker, I remember June 29 of last year, when I was joined by more than 75 Long Island veterans and high school students as we called upon our Federal officials to pass a similar measure.

The meaning of the American flag could be easily seen in the eyes of these veterans. It is easy to be seen in the eyes of our children who every day look upon the flag as they recite their Pledge of Allegiance as the start of each school day begins.

There is not a place, setting or an event where the American flag is flown where its true meaning is not understood.

To those in need, when they see the Stars and Stripes, they know America has arrived to help.

To our neighbors around the world, the flag means an ally is not far away.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to once again in overwhelming numbers support the flag protection amendment in the 107th Congress.

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

**H.R. 918, THE CLEAN DIAMONDS ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak for 5 minutes with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), my friend.

Mr. Speaker, a month ago a coalition of 75 respected human rights organizations launched a campaign aimed at