

to the political and social freedoms enjoyed by the citizens of Poland today, after enduring decades of Soviet domination.

From September 1940 until April 1941, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski was imprisoned in Auschwitz. During World War II, he was active in the Polish military; secretly founded the Zegota Council for Aid to Jews; participated in the Rebirth of the Poland clandestine movement; and proudly took part in the Warsaw Uprising as a Home Army soldier.

Minister Bartoszewski's activism did not stop at the end of the war. He became involved in the Polish Peasant Party and became the co-editor of *Gazeta Ludowa* (Peasant's Daily). His work with these groups landed him in communist jails twice during that period. After his incarceration, throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Minister Bartoszewski continued to fight for the freedom of Poland by participating in Radio Free Europe and the Polish Independence Alliance. In November of 1980, he founded the Committee for the Defense of Those Harassed for Their Beliefs. Once again, the Minister was arrested for his efforts and placed in the Jaworze Internment Center.

In addition to his dedication to Poland's independence movement, Minister Bartoszewski has spent a great deal of his life in the field of education. He taught at the Catholic University in Lublin, and at universities in Munich, Eichstadt, and Augsburg. In addition to writing 1,000 papers and 40 books, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski holds many honorary academic titles from universities all over the world.

Wladyslaw Bartoszewski reached his position of Minister of Foreign Affairs in December of 1995. During the 1990s, he also served as a Senator and as the Polish Ambassador to Austria.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski for his great struggle to bring freedom to Poland and its people and for his many years of service to his country.

CALLING UPON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO END ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHINA AND TIBET

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I call upon the government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end its continuing human rights violations in China and Tibet.

I also endorse H. Res. 56, that strongly supports an American resolution at the 57th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, calling upon the government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights abuses in China and Tibet. As the leader of the free world, we must always encourage the same basic rights we enjoy, for all people, everywhere.

The State Department recently reported that China's human rights record has worsened.

We know that several thousand prisoners are detained today for exercising freedoms of belief and expression, and members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement and Tibetan Buddhists suffer increasing opposition from Beijing for their peaceful practices. We must not tolerate widespread violations of internationally recognized human rights standards, like the persecution and torture of people worshipping outside official churches, that occurs in China to this day.

In addition, the Tibetan people are hardly better off now than they were forty years ago. Since 1950, the communist government of China has actively controlled Tibet and has repressed the Tibetan people. During the 1966 to 1976 Cultural Revolution, most monasteries, palaces, and other aspects of Tibetan Buddhism were damaged and destroyed. The Dalai Lama, the highest and most revered leader within Tibet's former government, has been exiled in India since 1959. Today, Tibet's unique cultural fabric is irreparably being torn by the oppressive practices of old guard communists in Beijing.

Mr. Speaker, China must learn to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of association, belief, and expression. It must change its laws and the decrees that restrict freedom, and it must stop criminalizing groups it arbitrarily labels as cults or heretical organizations.

Chinese authorities must hear a loud and clear message: the United States, the rest of the world, and the Chinese and Tibetan people themselves, have waited long enough. China should quit throwing tantrums like an unruly child; it needs to grow up, act its age, and learn to take its place at the table for adults.

BON TON SHOPPE ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stella Wingerter and her family on the 40th anniversary of the Bon Ton Shoppe Inc.

Stella Wingerter founded the company in 1961 with the first store opening in Farmington, Michigan. That first store was only 1200 square feet. Now, however, Stella and her family own and operate four stores, all totaling more than 6,000 square feet, with locations in Farmington, Livonia, Milford and Brighton, Michigan. Forty years of enterprise in southeast Michigan is a strong testament of the Wingerter's dedication to their business, their employees and their community.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Stella Wingerter and her family on 40 years of success and wish them many more in the future.

TAX CREDITS FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation that will provide elementary and secondary school teachers with a \$500 refundable tax credit when they purchase books, supplies, and equipment out of their own pockets.

With limited resources being stretched to the limit in many public schools, teachers have been incurring out-of-pocket expenses averaging \$448 to \$1,000 a year. According to the National School Supply and Equipment Association, more than half the money teachers spend in this manner is on instructional materials such as flashcards and workbooks, while the remainder is spent on supplies such as chalk, paper, and pens.

Although current law allows teachers a tax deduction for the school supplies they purchase but for which are not reimbursed by their schools, this provision can be very complicated and does not serve the majority of teachers.

To receive the tax benefit, teachers need to file a Schedule A for itemized deductions, and they must have incurred expenses that exceed a full 2 percent of their adjusted gross income. For example, let's say a teacher earned \$50,000 in adjusted gross income, and spent \$1,100 on out-of-pocket expenses; with the current formula, the actual deduction would only be \$100.

Under my proposal, teachers who incur out-of-pocket expenses but do not meet the current income stipulations would still receive a tax credit. A tax credit is more beneficial than the current deduction because it will allow teachers to utilize the benefit, particularly teachers with low salaries and those in disadvantaged schools.

My Congressional district in western Wisconsin is home to no less than 75 public school districts. I find it unconscionable that teachers must supplement school needs with their own hard earned income to ensure every student receives the same quality education. This bill represents much needed short-term relief, but also renews our long-term commitment to maintaining America's excellence in education. By supporting our teachers in their efforts to provide a quality education to all of our children, we support the very future of our country. Without a doubt, education is the cornerstone of a healthy, productive society, and today's investment represents tomorrow's future success. As we continue the federal government's role in guaranteeing affordable educational opportunities, our commitment to our teachers is one step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure and the scores of dedicated teachers across the nation who spend their own money on classroom materials needed to educate our children. Their sacrifices to alleviate a problem in the structure of education funding should not go without some benefit. I would encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and give our nation's teachers the credit they deserve.