April 5, 2001

I am proud to co-sponsor both of these resolutions because the U.S. needs to be on the side of pursuing justice and of speaking truth to power. I am hopeful that the U.S. will lead in the efforts in Geneva to speak truth to the authoritarian regimes of Cuba and China.

MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF
HON. STEVE ISRAEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, Getting married shouldn’t mean saying ‘I do,’ to higher taxes. In my state of New York over one and a half million couples are burdened by the marriage penalty, nearly $60,000 in my district alone. This occurs when married couples pay more than an unmarried couple with the same income.

For example two individuals, living together, but not married, each with incomes of $30,000—their combined standard deduction would be $9,100 and their tax rate would be 15%. If that same couple got married, their standard deduction would drop to $7,189 and they would move into the 28% tax rate. The only difference is that they got married.

We should eliminate this inequity by widening the 15% tax bracket to allow joint filers to have two times the income of individuals and still remain taxed at 15%. We should also double the standard deduction for joint filers to twice that of singles. We’re talking about people who work hard and play by the rules. At a time when parents are working harder for less money, we need to encourage families, not punish them. Ending the marriage penalty is particularly urgent for the middle-class. This is a wrong that should have been righted a long time ago—making the tax code more fair is particularly urgent for the middle-class. This is a wrong that should have been righted a long time ago—making the tax code more fair

NAVY EP-3 AIRCRAFT IN CHINA

HON. SUSAN DAVIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the emergency landing of the Navy EP-3 aircraft in China demonstrates the nature of the risk that our service members endure each day. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, brave men and women put themselves in the face of danger.

My heart goes out to those on the ground in China and to their families who anxiously await their return. I call on President Bush and President Jiang to engage in a dialogue that results in the quickest possible reunion of our Navy personnel and their families.

As we all wait, let us remember the dangers abroad and the sacrifices endured by our service members. Let us also remember the demands that military service places on their families.

I recently spoke with a young woman who had just recently married a young sailor. Until now, she had always expected her husband to return home each night. Now the impact of being a Navy wife hits home. There is always the possibility that “he may not come home.”

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. EDWARD C. STONE, RETIRING DIRECTOR OF THE JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

HON. ADAM SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Edward C. Stone, retiring Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. After ten years of distinguished service at JPL, Dr. Stone will be returning to full-time teaching and research at the California Institute of Technology, where he has taught since 1967. Dr. Stone, the David Morrisroe Professor of Physics, has been widely regarded as an energetic and thoughtful leader at JPL.

Since his first cosmic-ray experiments on Discoverer satellites in 1961, Dr. Stone has been a principal investigator on nine NASA spacecraft missions and a co-investigator on five other NASA missions for which he developed high resolution instruments for measuring the isotopic and elemental composition of energetic cosmic-ray nuclei. Using these instruments, Dr. Stone and his colleagues undertook some of the first studies of the isotopic composition of three distinct samples of matter. During his tenure at JPL, Dr. Stone’s many accomplishments include Galileo’s five-year orbital mission to Jupiter, the launch of Assini to Saturn, as well as a new generation of Earth sciences satellites such as TOPEX/ Poseidon and SeaWinds, and the spectacularly successful Mars Pathfinder landing in 1997.

He has transformed the direction of JPL from administering a few large projects to managing many new, smaller exploration missions. Dr. Stone’s vision has revolutionized the way JPL does business, thus expanding its impact on the field of astrophysics and planetary science. He is a remarkable scientist, whose brilliance is coupled with his ability to lead. Dr. Stone exemplifies integrity, energy, and leadership, and his deep commitment to JPL and its goals has been the touchstone of the Laboratory’s success. I would like to commend Dr. Stone for his extraordinary dedication and thank him for his decade of service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN AIR INVESTMENT ACT

HON. KEN BENTSEN
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, well over 100 million Americans live in metropolitan, suburban, and even rural regions that are facing a serious environmental and economic problem—attainment of air quality standards of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990. Arguably, the most pressing issue affecting my region’s prosperity and quality of life is State Implementation Plans (SIP) to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions (NOX), which are causing the greater Houston area to exceed the EPA