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 $20,000 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 while providing families with meaningful tax relief for the things that matter—buying a home, ensuring quality family medical care, and sending kids to college.

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.”