

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JAMES
COFFEE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend James Coffee's 38 years as Pastor of the Community Baptist Church in Santa Rosa, California.

Reverend Coffee came here in the midst of the Nation's civil rights struggle—and from the start he has fought to break down barriers between the races. He established the Bridge Builders Organization, a group seeking racial reconciliation and the Diversity Forum, a group meeting to understand and embrace the diversities among us. He's served as President of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Committee, and is a founding member of the 100 Black Men of Sonoma County.

Service on Citizens Against Domestic Violence, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, and Citizens For Balanced Transportation highlight Reverend Coffee's commitment to civic life. He is recipient of numerous honors from service clubs and professional organizations, including a community builder award presented to him on Diversity Day two years ago. Because of his strong belief in the power of education, Reverend Coffee established a scholarship and a mentoring program at Community Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Coffee is truly the perfect embodiment of one of his favorite sayings, "Make a difference one day at a time." For 38 years Reverend Coffee has made a difference—with strength and persistence, with humor and compassion every day of his life.

IN HONOR OF POLICE CHIEF
DOMINIC V. MEUTI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Police Chief Dominic V. Meuti who is celebrating his retirement from the police force after 50 years with the Bedford Heights' Police Department.

Police Chief Meuti has a long and distinguished career with the city of Bedford Heights and is believed to be the longest-serving active police chief in the country. Mr. Meuti began his service in 1951 as a 21-year-old mechanic. Earning just \$1.25 an hour, he accepted the position after only a few months of police work under his belt.

As chief, Mr. Meuti performed countless jobs to make sure the city ran smoothly. In the

winter, he acted as the Service Department, and plowed the snow using his beat-up Chevy. In the summer, he patrolled the tiny village in his own car. Chief Meuti's dedication to his job was displayed with the countless hours of work he performed. During his tenure, the community has grown to over 11,000, and the force has expanded to 38 full-time officers.

Police Chief Meuti's life, however, is not consumed with the police force. His office is filled with family photographs and he remains extremely active in his local community. His kind spirit and warm smile attract people to him. He has served his community selflessly for 50 years and is an inspiration to many.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a great man on his retirement. For 50 years, Police Chief Dominic V. Meuti has dedicated his life to public service. His love and dedication to his community will be greatly missed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON HR. 1836,
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX
RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, today, Congress will approve a significant tax relief package, outlining a fiscal path that promises lower taxes but creates a less certain budget picture. I believe Americans need tax relief, and I will support this tax cut bill because it is the best we can produce at this time. In many crucial respects, however, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act is flawed. In some cases, promised tax benefits are delayed for several years, while additional valuable tax credits for education and inducements for personal savings expire only a few years after enactment. Politics, however, is built on principled compromise between different policy positions and, in voting in favor of this bill, I will not let the friend of the perfect be the enemy of the good.

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act provides significant tax relief for millions of Americans by correcting the marriage penalty and eliminating the estate tax. I support eliminating the estate tax and correcting the marriage penalty. The burden imposed on working families and some family businesses by these two taxes far outweighs the moderate revenue generated for the federal government. Although this bill addresses both of these items, the tax relief is either incomplete or delayed over an unreasonable length of time.

I favor an immediate fix to the marriage penalty—a penalty that causes half of all married couples to pay an average of \$1,100 in

federal income tax—by doubling the standard deduction for married couples effective 2002. As an original cosponsor of legislation to eliminate this penalty, I have met with many married couples throughout my district who, as a result of committing to marriage, pay a higher percentage of federal income tax. Unfortunately, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act delays full implementation until 2005, putting off much needed relief for millions of families. Bipartisan majorities on several occasions have supported an immediate repeal, correcting this costly quirk in the federal tax code.

A key priority I have championed since my first campaign for Congress is the elimination of the federal estate tax. One of the first bills I introduced as a Member of Congress was legislation to repeal the federal estate tax. Taxing a small business or family farmer after the owner has passed is the ultimate disincentive to small business and to a family's dream to pass down a business, profession, or craft to future generations. On three separate occasions over the past two years, the House of Representatives approved legislation to completely repeal the estate tax. During each vote, I stood with those who believe the government should not tax a life's hard work. Today, I again join my colleagues in pursuing the elimination of this tax.

Although bipartisan majorities support the elimination of the estate tax, I am frustrated with the delaying tactics and extended timelines contained in the final bill. As part of a series of tricks to hide the true cost of the tax cut, Republican negotiators have stretched estate tax repeal over the next decade. In fact, complete repeal will not take effect until after 2011, outside the ten-year budget framework and thus removed from our budget agreement and congressional rules. This clever trick unfairly postpones complete relief and disregards our budget plan—a document that is a roadmap to fiscal integrity. My own bill would immediately repeal the estate tax, a much preferable approach to implementing an incremental, decade-long reduction that does not provide full relief until 2011. Fiscal truth telling is paramount to maintaining the trust of the American voter. By backloading several popular tax measures, Congress risks a return to deficit spending and an erosion of public confidence in the budget process.

Throughout the tax debate, I have stood with a coalition of fiscally responsible Democrats—the Blue Dog Coalition—emphasizing a responsible budget plan that retires the debt, strengthens Social Security and Medicare, addresses our common priorities and provides meaningful tax relief. The Blue Dog Coalition demands fiscal honesty and a candid assessment of the projected long-range federal budget surplus, which is at the root of our efforts to pass significant tax relief. Earlier this year, the House rushed through a tax plan prior to establishing clear guidelines to reduce our \$5 trillion national debt. I opposed this approach.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

It is fiscally irresponsible to cut revenues before identifying important priorities in defense, education, healthcare, and setting a glide path toward debt reduction. As part of the budget process, the Blue Dog Coalition advocated for a fair and realistic budget plan before passing tax legislation. The tax package and budget plan, although not perfect, does provide a roadmap for reducing taxes and contains a commitment to fund important priorities.

Although I support today's historic vote to lower taxes, I remain concerned that Congress has not put in place a mechanism to ensure that we do not return to deficit spending. A group of moderate Senate Members proposed the inclusion of a trigger provision, triggering each stage of the tax cut on successful debt payments with actual surplus funds. I support this common sense, fiscally responsible approach to lowering taxes because the 10-year \$5.6 trillion projected budget surplus is built on unrealistic spending assumptions and economic growth rates. These projections have been wrong over and over again. In fact, over the last five years these projections were off the mark by an average of \$58 billion a year. We do have a budget surplus this year—and a large projected 10-year surplus—but we also carry a crushing \$5 trillion national debt racked up over 35 years of deficit spending. Tying future tax cuts to budget surpluses would act as an insurance policy making certain that Congress does not backslide and return to an era of fiscal irresponsibility.

This bill provides tax relief for millions of Americans. Phasing out the marriage penalty, increasing the child tax credit, and expanding the earned income tax credit are three provisions within this bill that especially benefit working families. I am glad both sides agreed to include these beneficial cuts. I have outlined my concerns where Congress could have worked to craft a better bill. Phasing in significant portions of this plan next year and creating a mechanism guaranteeing that tax cuts do not occur at the expense of deficits are a few of my concerns. Although these reservations give me pause in enacting this tax plan, I believe that on balance, this bill will reduce taxes on American families, encourage savings, and give Americans greater control over their financial future.

HONORING DR. ROGER TRIFTS-HAUSER'S TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE GENESEE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, an American patriot, and my good friend, Dr. Roger Triftshauser.

On Friday, June 8, Roger will be honored for his twenty years of service as a member of the Genesee County Legislature. First elected in 1982, Roger was elected for ten consecutive terms, rising to the position of Chairman of the Legislature. Earlier this year, he resigned his position to become Special Assis-

ant for Intercounty Affairs for Governor George E. Pataki.

That Roger would resign from the Legislature to answer the Governor's call is no surprise to those who know him. Because Roger Triftshauser has always answered the call to provide his leadership and service to his community.

A native of Warsaw, New York, Roger accepted a commission in the United States Naval Reserve while a student at the University at Buffalo. He received his degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1961, and served on active duty as a Naval Dental Officer from 1961 to 1967. Roger has served the Naval Reserve Dental Corps for more than 30 years, earning promotion to Rear Admiral.

Roger's tenure in the Genesee County Legislature was marked by outstanding strategic leadership, a bedrock commitment to values and principles, and an unquestioned devotion to making his community a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere pleasure to offer my congratulations and thanks to my friend, Dr. Roger Triftshauser for his two decades of service to the Genesee County Legislature, and I ask that this Congress join me in saluting his service and achievements.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SPARKS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, to my great dismay, John Sparks, Vice President of Public and Government Affairs, will soon conclude nine years of outstanding service to the American Symphony Orchestra League. While the League's membership includes more than 900 orchestras, and some 3,000 individuals, artist agencies, trustees, and volunteers, John's work has reached far beyond the music and arts community to benefit the nation at large. I would like to take a few moments to recognize the outstanding work that John has accomplished over almost a decade of service.

In particular, John has distinguished himself as an advocate for the right of nonprofit organizations and individual citizens to voice their concerns about public policy. When some sought legislation to limit the ability of America's charities to communicate with legislators, John was instrumental in leading the effort that ultimately protected this basic right. With the publication of "Best Defense: a Guide for Orchestra Advocates," he literally wrote the book on civic participation in arts policy. And, his regular contributions to SYMPHONY Magazine have provided readers nationwide with thoughtful inquiry and evenhanded analysis of emerging public policy, while persistently professing the responsibility of every individual to actively participate in the public sector.

I would also like to recognize John's extraordinary contributions in the areas of nonprofit and arts policy. He has tirelessly defended federal support for the National Endowment for the Arts through years of challenges, and has expertly represented the concerns of orchestras and their audiences in an

uncommonly diverse array of policy areas, ranging from postal rates to tax policy.

John's tenacity, sincerity, political acumen, and keen sense of humor, are indeed rare qualities to be found in one person. I express my sincere thanks to John Sparks for his invaluable work on behalf of orchestras, the arts, non-profit organizations, and our country.

CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2001

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer my sincerest congratulations to the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, June 9, 2001.

While the Caldwell Fire Department was officially established in 1901, its origin goes back to the late 1890's when a group of concerned local residents purchased a horse drawn fire wagon from the town of Montclair.

Housed in a barn on Roseland Avenue in Caldwell, local farmers and businessmen provided the horses needed to pull the fire equipment because the town refused to pay for the horses to pull the fire wagon. On occasions when horses were not available, the men pulled the wagon themselves.

To summon the men to a fire call, the metal trolley wire poles along Bloomfield Avenue were struck with a metal object.

The original horse drawn fire wagon was replaced with a used motorized fire truck in the early 1930's.

Over the past 100 years the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department had several homes. In 1921 a new borough hall was built at 14 Roseland Avenue, which housed the fire equipment and the police department on the first floor. In the early 1920's, the borough hall was moved to its present location on Provost Square while the firehouse remained at 14 Roseland Avenue.

In 1937, the firehouse was expanded to accommodate Caldwell's new 1937 La France Pumper and Ladder Truck. The building had to be expanded again in the early 1960's to accommodate larger pieces of equipment.

Outgrowing the building at 14 Roseland Avenue, the fire department moved to its current headquarters at 30 Roseland Avenue in 1980.

The current building is home to five fire trucks, three reserve trucks, administrative offices, and all of the equipment necessary to maintain an active fire department.

When the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department officially formed in 1901 it had 18 volunteers. Today the department is made up of 38 volunteers. With the exception of a paid driver during the late 1940's and a paid chief for a few years in the late 1960's, the fire department has successfully served the Borough of Caldwell with an all-volunteer staff.

On Saturday, June 9, 2001 fire departments from across the State of New Jersey will join the Caldwell Fire Department to celebrate its history and future.