

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.