

to work additional years to earn back their stock losses.

With continuing economic uncertainty, we must bring relief to middle class families while boosting investor confidence in an uncertain stock market. Today, I am introducing the Middle Class Investor Relief Act, increasing the maximum annual capital loss a taxpayer can take from \$3,000 to \$20,000.

Current tax law is asymmetrical with regard to taxing capital gains and writing off capital losses. Long-term gains are taxed at 15 percent while capital loss write-offs are capped at \$3,000 per year. An individual who lost more than \$3,000 in the stock market could take years to rebuild his or her holdings. The Middle Class Investor Relief Act will correct the asymmetry of current tax law and help middle class Americans recover losses and rebuild their portfolios.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHCC

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (SHCC). To honor this organization, the State of New Jersey has designated October 13 through October 19 Hispanic Business Week.

The health of the Hispanic business community is vital to maintaining the strength of the New Jersey economy. This year, the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of New Jersey is celebrating 19 years of service and commitment on behalf of the growing small business community. They have positioned themselves as number one out of the top 50 Chambers of Commerce of the State of New Jersey.

I also want to recognize Daniel H. Jara, founding president and CEO of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. Daniel has been listed in the elite group of the State's 2006 Movers and Shakers Most Influential Business Leaders by NJBiz.

The Hispanic market represents the fastest growing sector in the United States. In the Garden State, this segment of the population has experienced an 87-percent growth in less than 10 years. This year, it is estimated that there are over 70,000 Hispanic-owned businesses, which support approximately 190,000 jobs and generate \$10.5 billion in sales. According to the last economic census, New Jersey has the fifth largest concentration of Hispanic-owned businesses in the Nation.

The Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey will hold its 18th Annual Convention and Expo on October 17, 2008. I wish the Chamber success as they continue striving to grow New Jersey's economy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAN DO
BILL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Communities in Action Neighborhood and Opportunity bill, also known as the CAN DO bill. The Department of Justice reports that, on average, 45 people are shot and killed daily in America. Annually, there are 16,000–17,000 gun deaths in America.

In contrast, the total number of American casualties in Iraq, over the entire 5-year span of the war, is about 4,155 and for Afghanistan, it's at least 500. The combined total of casualties for Iraq and Afghanistan is less than 5,000 since both wars began. More Americans are killed in America than American soldiers killed in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

Madam Speaker, as elected leaders of this country, we must address this critical issue that inflicts so many of our most vulnerable communities. This issue of gun violence affects all Americans, white, black, Latino, and Asian. And gun violence pervades in all of our communities: urban, suburban, and rural.

This issue is not a black or white issue, and it is not an urban or rural issue. This is an American issue that we must address with all of the resources we have at our disposal.

The CAN DO bill offers a new strategy in dealing with gun violence. It combines strict law enforcement practices, along with new opportunities for mental health counseling, job programs, and educational and recreational services for at-risk youth and their families.

This bill is also unique in that it brings together the entire community to deal with the issue of gun violence by establishing partnerships between public agencies, businesses, community-based nonprofits, churches, schools, and universities. There is an "all hands on" approach in order to get all of the stakeholders involved and provide a comprehensive and effective strategy that families and communities can support and get behind.

As it is recorded by the Prophet Isaiah, "They will turn their swords into plows, and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will not take up the sword against other nations and they will never again train for war".

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the CAN DO bill and help end the destruction that is tearing apart so many of our communities. Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing".

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN JIM
RAMSTAD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, Congressman JIM RAMSTAD, as he

retires from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman RAMSTAD is dedicated to public service. He served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve after graduating from the University of Minnesota and then as a Criminal Justice attorney before being elected to the Minnesota Senate in 1981 and to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990. Today, he is a member of the Board of Directors of Minnesota D.A.R.E and the Lake County Food Bank.

Minnesota has been fortunate to have a leader like Congressman RAMSTAD representing us in the House of Representatives. Congressman RAMSTAD is one of a rare class of members who always puts policy above partisanship, and with his focus on law enforcement and health care, has made a real difference for families in Minnesota and across the country.

He showed his immense courage and commitment by speaking about his own challenges with chemical dependency during his work on the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act. His dedication to reducing the stigma associated with mental health and chemical dependency and ensuring fairness in health care has changed the lives of millions of Americans.

Congressman RAMSTAD served on the Health Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee and has worked effectively on issues relating to health care access. As a freshman Member of the House, he recognized the growing importance of technology to health care and to Minnesota's economy, and started the Medical Technology Caucus. This caucus has brought much needed attention to the field of medical technology and created a forum for Members and staff to learn more about these important innovations.

His important work in this area also has a global reach. I was proud to have Jim as a partner in introducing legislation to expand access to voluntary family planning in developing countries.

It has been an honor to serve alongside Congressman RAMSTAD in the Minnesota Delegation for the last 7 years. I have learned a lot from him, and will miss him. However, Minnesotans can rest assured that JIM's public service will continue long after he leaves Congress.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Congressman JIM RAMSTAD in the U.S. House of Representatives.

NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY
MONTH

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, over the past several decades, employers, human resource professionals, policymakers, and everyone who works have come to understand the importance of supporting the often competing demands of work, home, and community. Support for the work-life juggling act has expanded to cover the predictable life events that occur throughout a career.

According to recent data and studies, balancing work and family is increasingly important to the strength of America's businesses today; 85 percent of United States wage and salaried workers have immediate, day-to-day family responsibilities outside of their jobs.

According to 2007 report by WorldatWork titled "Attraction and Retention: The Impact and Prevalence of Work-life and Benefit Programs", the quality of workers' jobs and the supportiveness of their workplaces are key predictors of job productivity, job satisfaction, commitment to employers, and retention.

Given the current economic crisis that is squeezing the family budget at a rate unprecedented since the Great Depression, from the escalating price of such basics as gasoline and food, at the same time housing values are declining, now more than ever it is essential to give working families some relief. Time is the new currency and has become as valuable a benefit as money. Research shows that workplace flexibility is the most highly prized response that employers can provide to 21st century workplace realities.

Workplace flexibility is not a trivial pursuit; it is a business imperative today. Corporations that engage in these family-supportive practices have earned 2-3 times the stock values, and creating a collegial, flexible work environment has been shown empirically to create a minimum of 9 percent of shareholder value.

No one is a pioneer; the path to flexibility is well-traveled, and best practices abound in all sectors—public as well as private. Many businesses are doing an exemplary job in this area already. H. Res. 1440 recognizes that the goal of National Work and Family Month is to encourage all employers to pause once a year in October, take stock of the progress that has been made to creating great places to work, and move the bar up one notch, thus setting a new goal for the year to come. This is the way progress is accomplished, one step at a time. Today we recognize the importance of setting aside this time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD PERKINS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Perkins.

Richard has dedicated his life to serving his fellow Nevadans and giving back to the Southern Nevada community. After growing up in Boulder City and Henderson, Richard graduated from Basic High School and subsequently the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with degrees in Criminal Justice and Political Science. Following his graduation from UNLV, Richard began a long and illustrious career with the Henderson Police Department in 1984. He has served as the Chief of Police for the Henderson Police Department since 2006.

In addition to Richard's dedicated service as a police officer and first responder, he admirably served in the Nevada State Legislature for a number of years. In 1993, Richard was first elected to the Nevada Assembly and

served for five subsequent regular sessions. During his time in the legislature, Richard distinguished himself, becoming the Democratic Floor Leader in 1995, the Chairman of the Legislative Commission from 1997-1998, and the Majority Floor Leader from 1997-1999. He served as the Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly in 2001.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend, Richard Perkins. Richard's tireless dedication to his fellow Nevadans and the Southern Nevada community are admirable and should serve as an example of a life dedicated to service. I thank Richard for his efforts, and wish him the best in his retirement and all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DERON MICHAEL WILLIAMS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of U.S.A. Olympic Team member Deron Michael Williams for his contribution to the U.S. men's basketball team in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

Deron Michael Williams was born on June 26, 1984 in Parkersburg, WV and later moved to Texas with his mother, who planted a love for basketball inside him. Deron's success began when he played as a point guard for the Colony High School Cougars. His passion for basketball paid off and he was recruited by the University of Illinois. Deron gained national attention when he helped get his team to the National Championships, and was named one of the Big Ten's Best Players.

Deron was also awarded the position of third pick by the Utah Jazz in the NBA draft. His intensity and drive revitalized the Jazz and brought renewed energy to the team, and he was awarded the NBA Skills Champion title earlier this year. Deron's hard work led him to the U.S.A. Olympic Team, where he and his teammates brought home the gold.

Deron's role on the U.S.A. Olympic Basketball Team helped bring positive attention to America, and with his team, helped contribute to the spirit of the Olympics. As a Member of Congress, I am proud to stand before you today and boast of the accomplishments of a man like Deron Williams, whose professional accomplishments began in my own district as the point guard for the Colony Cougars. Deron, thank you for your unselfish dedication both on and off the court and for your role in representing America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall votes 637-644 on

September 25, 2008. I was in my congressional district attending a funeral for a fallen service member.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 637, On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 1490, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 638, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 1490, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 639, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 758, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 640, On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 1501, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 641, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H. Con. Res. 255, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 642, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1014, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 643, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 6950, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 644, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, H. Res. 1421, "aye."

IN HONOR OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus to congratulate Taiwan on its 97th National Day on October 10.

The people of Taiwan have many reasons to celebrate and be proud of their country. Having elected President Ma Ying-jeou, the Taiwanese have returned the KMT party back to power, thereby effectively passing Huntington's "two-turnover test of democratic consolidation." By successfully transitioning from one party to another and back to the original party, the people of Taiwan have proven their democracy is flourishing.

Today, Taiwan is a vibrant democracy with a strong market economy thanks to its strong ties with the United States. Under the new Ma administration, Taiwan will only seek to fortify these ties and continue to prosper as a nation.

Madam Speaker, I would also be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to push for the 111th Congress to pass a Free Trade Agreement with Taiwan. Taiwan is the United States' ninth largest trading partner, with trade flows between the two totaling \$64.6 billion last year. A Free Trade Agreement expand trade and improve economic growth, provide enhanced opportunities for U.S. businesses and support an important democratic ally in a strategic region. It is time we put our differences aside and pass this legislation which is long overdue.

COMMENDING THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 490 AND LADIES AUXILIARY UNIT 490

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to recognize American Legion Post 490