

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 8, 2003, I was unavoidably detained, and therefore unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall No. 10, a procedural vote to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 10.

LIBERTY AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Liberty Amendment, which repeals the 16th Amendment, thus paving the way for real change in the way government collects and spends the people's hard-earned money. The Liberty Amendment also explicitly forbids the federal government from performing any action not explicitly authorized by the United States Constitution.

The 16th Amendment gives the federal government a direct claim on the lives of American citizens by enabling Congress to levy a direct income tax on individuals. Until the passage of the 16th amendment, the Supreme Court had consistently held that Congress had no power to impose an income tax.

Income taxes are responsible for the transformation of the federal government from one of limited powers into a vast Leviathan whose tentacles reach into almost every aspect of American life. Thanks to the income tax, today the federal government routinely invades our privacy, and penalizes our every endeavor.

The Founding Fathers realized that "the power to tax is the power to destroy," which is why they did not give the federal government the power to impose an income tax. Needless to say, the Founders would be horrified to know that Americans today give more than a third of their income to the federal government.

Income taxes not only diminish liberty, they retard economic growth by discouraging work and production. Our current tax system also forces Americans to waste valuable time and money on complacency with an ever-more complex tax code. The increased interest in flat-tax and national sales tax proposals, as well as the increasing number of small businesses that questioning the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) "withholding" system provides further proof that America is tired of the labyrinthine tax code. Americans are also increasingly fed up with an IRS that continues to ride roughshod over their civil liberties, despite recent "pro-taxpayer" reforms.

Mr. Speaker, America survived and prospered for 140 years without an income tax, and with a federal government that generally adhered to strictly constitutional functions, operating with modest excise revenues. The income tax opened the door to the era (and errors) of Big Government. I hope my colleagues will help close that door by cosponsoring the Liberty Amendment.

NORTH CAROLINA
REPRESENTATIVE LARRY JUSTUS

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of North Carolina State Representative Larry Justus.

After graduating from Dana High School, Larry T. Justus entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he pursued and received a degree in Radio and Television Writing and Production.

Larry Justus married Carolyn who is a native of Transylvania County, North Carolina. They have four sons: Scott, Ron, Christ and Seth. He is remembered as a loving father and kind husband.

Larry served his country bravely and retired from the United States Air Force as a Lt. Colonel after serving in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He served as a Squadron Commander, Executive officer, disaster preparedness officer, information and public relations officer and a protocol officer.

Larry continued his role in our armed forces by being involved in the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Western North Carolina Retiree Officers Association.

Larry was committed to the principles of the Republican Party and worked diligently on behalf of the party. He served as a National Delegate to the 1980 Republican National Convention, a former member of the State Republican Central Committee, a member of the State Republican Executive Committee and was named "Outstanding North Carolina Republican" in 1974. He also served as the Henderson County Republican Chairman.

Larry will best be remembered for his unflinching service to North Carolina. Justus served Henderson County in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1985 until his death in October of 2002 at the age of 70. He was known as an open, friendly, and accessible legislator and was the model for integrity in public service.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues will join me in praising the life and work of Representative Larry Justus.

INTRODUCING THE TEACHER VICTIMS' FAMILY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2002

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a study conducted by the National School Safety Center on School Associated Violent Deaths notes that between 1992 and 2001, 33 teachers, school administrators, school employees, or volunteers, were fatal victims of school violence. This means that during that nine-year period, a teacher, school administrator or some other school employee in America was killed while performing the duties of his or her job every fourteen weeks.

A similar study done by the U.S. Department of Justice last year stated that teachers, school administrators and other school em-

ployees accounted for nearly 10 percent of all fatalities from school violence on campuses nationwide. Even more disturbing is that the majority of faculty fatalities occurred when a school employee attempted to stop a fight or some type of disagreement between students or other faculty members. In trying to stop school violence, these school employees became victims of school violence themselves.

On May 26, 2000, my district was struck with horror when a thirteen year old student walked into Lake Worth Middle School and shot and killed his teacher, Mr. Barry Grunow. While this tragic event once again raised the important issues of school safety, gun control, and the minimum age at which a child can be tried as an adult, to the Grunow family, the tragic death of Barry Grunow has meant much more.

In addition to the painful loss of a father and husband, Barry Grunow's death had a long-term effect on the entire Grunow family. Barry's death meant that, within six months, the entire Grunow family would find themselves without health care coverage; Barry's death meant that the Grunow family would incur added and unexpected expenses; and, ultimately, Barry's death means one less income that can be used to support Pam Grunow and her two children in the years to come.

In Spring 2001, the Florida State Legislature passed and the Governor signed the Barry Grunow Act, a measure that provided death benefits to the spouses and children of victims of school violence. Today, I come to the floor of the House of Representatives to say that it is time for Congress to follow Florida's lead and pass a similar measure.

I rise today to reintroduce the Teacher Victims' Assistance Act of 2002. The 108th Congress is the second consecutive Congress that I have introduced this legislation. Similar to Florida's Barry Grunow Act, the Teacher Victims' Assistance Act places teachers, school administrators, school employees and school volunteers in the same high-risk category in which we currently place many of country's most important role models.

My bill provides the spouses and children of educators who are killed as a result of school violence with the following death benefits: a one-time death benefit of \$75,000, \$1,500 to be used to assist with any funeral expenses, \$900 per month in living assistance to the victims' surviving spouse, \$225 per month in living assistance to each dependent of the victim until the age of 17, \$7,500 per year, for up to five years, for each dependent to be used to pay for college or other forms of higher education before the age of 25, opportunity to enroll in the Medicare health benefits program, and exempts the family members from having to pay any accumulated income tax by the victim as a result of school employment.

Mr. Speaker, never before has Congress made the historic statement that we need to compensate the families of educators who are victims of school violence. Many of us understand that violence in our schools is virtually impossible to eliminate completely. However, it is possible for Congress to ensure every educator in the country that if another school shooting such as those which occurred at Lake Worth High School, the future of educators' families shall never be in jeopardy.

The Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2003 makes such a commitment, and I urge my colleagues to pass it immediately.