

What if you were one of them? I guess we should just stop and let go. Yeah right!

Anti-war protesters are all followers. You should believe in life, liberty and justice for all. Not some rich fancy celebrity just because you like his/her show. I saw a 16 year old female on the news. She said that sixth period was not as important as protesting. How would she even know? Has she been to other countries? She should see what we have. Children all starving and buildings in ruins. Yes we have it in the U.S. but not nearly as bad. You are all lucky. We all are. At least you can go out and get a job if you need to. Hello, welcome to McDonalds, may I help you?

So here I say: No one really wants to go to war. Sometimes it is the action that we must take. Should we just come home and let the world take us over? Uhhh, NO! Protestors, like yourselves, are the people that get mad if someone cuts a tree down or if we eat a cow. I bet a good number of you drive. STOP! You are polluting the air. I will still drive if I need to be someplace and I like my steak medium-well. Do I care? Yes I do.

Our President will make the decision. What he says goes. I respect that and I am ready to do whatever he says and so are all the men and women in the Armed Forces. This is why we are here. When he says "Go" we are on our way. That is why we are getting a raise and we deserve it. Who cares if you do not like it?

As an Army man said, "We are the ones here fighting, so really you do not have a say so!" I am with him.

I would like to thank all the people that support us. I know that my Mom is very worried about me but I know she loves and misses me. I love you all so much and I miss you more than anything.

To all those who oppose and protest, go ahead and do it, whatever! We know who the real men and women are in the U.S.A.!!

I bleed red, white and blue!!

You are right "God blesses everyone." America is #1 on my list.

I wrote this and it is what I feel. I would like it if you passed it on and maybe write back an opinion or something.

Signed, A disappointed Navy Sailor,

MATTHEW A. ETHERIDGE.

Members of this Congress and the American public should sincerely consider Matt's words. Those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in devoted servants like Matt Etheridge. I believe his letter to America makes his point very clearly. Mr. Speaker, it should never be in doubt that our nation's servicemen and women have our support, and remain in our thoughts and prayers.

#### RECOGNIZING THE VON STEUBEN PANTHERS

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, believe it or not, Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center's basketball team has a chance at the state title. Now, that might not mean much to many of my colleagues, but for those of us who live on the North Side of Chicago, Von Steuben's appearance in the Elite Eight, their first since 1938, is a big deal.

Von Steuben's season did not begin that well. In fact, they lost four of their first five games, but the Panthers rebounded. On Mon-

day, March 17, 2003, they convincingly defeated Brother Rice 65-56 to secure the Class AA supersectional.

Every student should be proud of Von Steuben, and not only because of their success on the basketball court, but because Von Steuben is truly a great school. There are many different types of Chicago Public Schools. Von Steuben is a "science center," meaning it has stronger math and science curriculums than most of Chicago's public schools. It is this demanding and stimulating college preparatory curriculum, combined with the school's diverse student body, innovative teaching methods and state-of-the-art technological equipment which set it apart. I'm proud to represent Von Steuben and honored to congratulate its basketball team.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Panthers of Von Steuben will play Peoria Central. I wish Von Steuben the very best of luck and know that regardless of the outcome, the residents of Chicago and the Albany Park Neighborhood are proud of their accomplishments.

#### TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

#### HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 19, 2003*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1308, and in particular, a provision I offered in the Ways and Means Committee during consideration of another tax measure. This provision is very simple, and very fair—it will provide tax benefits to the families of the victims of the Columbia Shuttle disaster. In the same manner our government provides benefits to the families of soldiers killed in the line of duty or to victims of terrorist attacks, I offered this provision to honor the spirit and courage of our nation's brave astronauts.

Under current law, when a soldier is killed in the line of duty or a citizen is the victim of terrorism, our government views all income received in the year of their death, or the preceding year, as exempt from income tax. In addition, any death benefits paid by the U.S. Government or employers to the families of the victims are also exempt from taxation. And finally, we reduce the state tax of the heirs to 20%.

H.R. 1308 would extend these modest benefits to all astronauts who die in the line of duty, beginning with the families and victims of the Columbia tragedy. These seven men and women gave their lives exploring the bounds of human experience. For their sacrifice and contributions to our nation and mankind, we wish to honor them by caring for the financial security of their loved ones.

I would add that this provision was adopted in Committee without dissent. Although it would provide much needed, meaningful relief to the families of our astronauts, its revenue impact is negligible.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't commend our colleague CHET EDWARDS of Texas who originally filed legislation extending these benefits to astronauts. I appreciate his leadership on this most solemn and important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to demonstrate their support for our astronauts by voting for H.R. 1308. Our nation is forever in their debt.

#### AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT

#### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the American Citizenship Amendment. Under current U.S. laws, any person born on American soil can claim American citizenship, regardless of the citizenship of that child's parents. This means that any alien who happens to give birth in the United States has just given birth to an American citizen, eligible for all the benefits and privileges afforded to citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable and is far from what our Founders intended when they drafted the Constitution. It undermines the very concept of citizenship as enshrined in the United States Constitution: to be constitutionally entitled to U.S. citizenship one must be "born . . . in the United States" and "subject to the jurisdiction thereof." This second, and most important, part means that in order to gain U.S. citizenship one must owe and actively express allegiance to the United States in addition to the act of being born on United States soil.

What the current state of events has led to is a booming business in smuggling pregnant mothers over the border to give birth to new "American" citizens, who in turn become eligible for all the benefits thereof. Practically, what this does is cheapen citizenship: rather than impart all the obligations and responsibilities of being an American it becomes merely a ticket to welfare and other benefits. The history of the United States is that of immigrants: individuals from diverse backgrounds accepted the obligations of citizenship in exchange for the great benefits of living in the freest nation on earth.

This proposed Constitutional amendment restores the concept of American citizenship to that of our Founders. This legislation simply states that no child born in the United States whose mother and father do not possess citizenship or owe permanent allegiance to the United States shall be a citizen of the United States. It is essential to the future of our constitutional republic that citizenship be something of value, something to be cherished. It cannot be viewed as merely an express train into the welfare state.

#### NATIONAL BOARD-CERTIFIED TEACHERS IN LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS ACT OF 2003

#### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the National Board-Certified Teacher in Low-Performing Schools Act of 2003 to place these highly skilled teachers