

being considered taxable income, I hope to increase the ease with which we send our children to college. Employers are able to provide health and retirement benefits and it is time for businesses to be able to provide an education benefit as well without penalizing the employee. The "Education Savings Act" is another effort to help defray the ever growing costs of attaining a college education.

Congress should do all we can to encourage our youth to pursue higher education opportunities and eliminate any barriers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes on the morning of September 25 because I was attending meeting with the National Security Advisor at the White House.

I requested a leave of absence from September 30 through October 8 due to a family

illness. Had I been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 520, 524–529, 531–533, and 535–539 and "nay" on rollcall votes 530 and 534.

VETERANS RECOGNIZED BY THE SILVER ROSE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Gary Chenett, and Robert Baker. These two gentlemen are responsible for awarding The Silver Rose to our military veterans in Texas and across the Nation.

Established in 1997 by Mary Elizabeth Marchand, The Order of The Silver Rose gives many veterans the satisfaction of being recognized for making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Mrs. Marchand's father, Chief Hospital Corpsman Frank Davis, died from illnesses resulting from the use of Agent Orange in the Vietnam War. A combat veteran,

Chief Davis was not wounded in combat but exposed to a dangerous substance while fighting for his country. Exposure to Agent Orange resulted in Davis losing his life some years later. Subsequently, determination was made by the Department of Defense that Chief Davis and many like him do not qualify for The Purple Heart.

The Order of The Silver Rose recognizes the courage, heroism, and contributions of American service personnel who were exposed to Agent Orange in a combat zone. There are thousands of veterans who served this country faithfully who are now suffering illnesses, some fatal, directly due to being exposed to harmful substances during the war.

Gary Chenett and Robert Baker award veterans with The Silver Rose. To date over one thousand veterans have received this award. Sadly, many of these awards have been made posthumously. October is now recognized as Agent Orange month in Texas and many other states. On behalf of Texas, I thank our brave patriots for their sacrifices.