

The above language is specifically intended to express the House's support for the continuation of funding for the National Sexual Assault Hotline programs. These programs include the National Sexual Assault Hotline, accessible at 800-656-HOPE, the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline, a Web-based hotline at www.rainn.org, as well as the other education and outreach programs created and carried out by RAINN (the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network). RAINN, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, currently receives funding from the Office for Victims of Crime to carry out its programs. In the past, RAINN also has received funding from the Office on Violence Against Women and the Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for this purpose.

While rape crisis centers in every state and the District of Columbia play a very important role in partnering with RAINN to support the operation of these national hotlines, it is important to note that they are truly national in scope. RAINN launched, and continues to operate, both hotlines from its headquarters in Washington, DC. As a result, every American, regardless of where they are located, who becomes a victim can seek immediate, confidential support services at any time of the day or night by calling 800-656-HOPE or by going to rainn.org for Web-based information, referrals and support.

We specifically authorized RAINN to operate these programs for rape victims through fiscal year 2010, when Congress passed, and then President Bush signed into law, Section 628 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. It is critical that Congress continue to provide the funding necessary to ensure RAINN's operation of these programs in fiscal year 2010. Absent such funding, victims of crime will not receive the resources they so desperately need in the aftermath of an attack. The House did not specifically include a dollar amount in the fiscal year 2010 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act for RAINN to continue to operate such programs, and it is vital that the Department of Justice find a way to ensure that the organization can continue to carry out the important work it does to support rape victims in the aftermath of attack.

Vice President BIDEN, who sponsored a resolution honoring the National Sexual Assault Hotline in 2006, during his tenure in the United States Senate, described it as follows: "[a] critical partner in our fight to end sexual assault has been the National Sexual Assault Hotline operated by RAINN, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. RAINN created this toll-free telephone hotline 1-800-656-HOPE—in 1994 and manages it with 1,100 local affiliates in 50 States and the District of Columbia. Victims from across the country can telephone the Hotline and receive confidential, trained expertise from experienced professionals with the assistance of over 10,000 volunteers. In June 2006, the Hotline received its millionth call since it answered its first call in 1994.

"The National Sexual Assault Hotline is truly a national treasure. It helps individuals and families recover from a horrendous violation. It provides a safe haven for victims to talk about the crime, and offers referrals on local psychological and physical help. A call to the National Sexual Assault Hotline is often the first step towards justice for a victim. . . . The hotline's

volunteers are doing God's work and deserve our gratitude." I would agree, Madam Speaker.

In closing, I thank the gentleman from West Virginia for his inclusion of the above-mentioned language in this year's appropriations bill. I look forward to continuing to work closely with him during conference negotiations to ensure that the bill recommends a specified dollar amount of funding for the Department of Justice to support RAINN in its efforts to operate national hotline programs for victims of sexual assault.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DALE LEON VINCENT, JR.

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dale Leon Vincent, Jr., an outstanding father, brother, husband, and a friend to many. Regrettably, Dale passed away earlier this year and left us too soon.

Dale's life was devoted to his family, his country, and his community. These values were instilled in him at an early age. His father, Dale L. Vincent, Sr., was a career officer in the Chemical Corps of the U.S. Army, serving in the European theater during World War II, and assisting U.S. humanitarian efforts after the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. Despite constantly moving from school to school each time his father's orders changed, Dale was a model student who devoted himself to his studies and to serving others. Dale reached the highest level of the Boy Scouts, becoming an Eagle Scout and earning the God and Country award. After graduating with honors from Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Virginia, where he was a highly ranked member of the wrestling team, Dale attended Duke University and became a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. At Duke, Dale would meet the love of his life, Kathy Sarah Farmer.

Following his father's example of service, Dale volunteered for service in the U.S. Army and served honorably in Vietnam. Although, like many veterans, Dale did not like to discuss his experiences in Vietnam, he was greatly admired by his family and friends for volunteering to serve his country despite the great risks. Dale was a first lieutenant in the Signal Corps, received an Army Commendation Medal for service as an instructor at Fort Benning, and, later, a Bronze Star for service in Vietnam. Upon returning home, Dale earned an MBA at American University in Washington, DC, and married his college sweetheart, Kathy.

Dale became a successful businessman and entrepreneur in New York City, where he formed a number of companies and displayed a talent for innovation. Over the years, Dale created and ran two successful retail chains, Clubmart and Dress to the Nines. He owned a restaurant in New Hope, Pennsylvania, called "The Raven," managed technology investing at Associated Capital, and was CEO of Mangosoft, a leading software company.

Despite Dale's tremendous success as a businessman, his family was his greatest

pride. Dale and Kathy raised and were devoted parents to three children, James, Paul, and David. Dale's younger brothers both so looked up to him that they each became Eagle Scouts, went to Duke University, joined Delta Sigma Phi, and served in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well.

Dale Vincent's impact on those he shared his life with is truly immeasurable, but is apparent in the family and friends that love him so dearly. For his outstanding devotion to family, friends, and country, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Dale Leon Vincent, Jr.

INTRODUCING EVACUEES TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2009

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Evacuees Tax Relief Act of 2009, legislation providing tax relief to those forced to abandon their homes because of a natural disaster. This legislation provides a tax credit or a tax deduction, depending on the wishes of the taxpayer, of up to \$5,000 for costs incurred because of a government-ordered mandatory or voluntary evacuation. Evacuees could use the credit to cover travel and lodging expenses associated with the evacuation, lost wages, property damages not otherwise compensated, and any other evacuation-related expenses. The tax credit is refundable up to the amount of income and payroll taxes a person would otherwise pay, thus ensuring working people who pay more in payroll than in income taxes are able to benefit from this tax relief. The credit is available retroactive to December of 2007, so it is available to Hurricane Ike evacuees, as well as those who evacuated because of Hurricanes Gustav and Dolly.

Just last year, the majority of my district, including my home county, was subject to mandatory evacuation because of Hurricane Ike. Therefore, I have firsthand experience with the burdens faced by those forced to uproot themselves and their families because of a natural disaster. Evacuees incur great costs in getting to safety, as well as loss from the storm damage. It can take many months, and even years, to fully recover from the devastation of a natural disaster. Given the unpredictable nature of natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornados, it is difficult for most families to adequately budget for these costs. The Evacuees Tax Relief Act helps Americans manage the fiscal costs of a natural disaster.

Madam Speaker, with the 2009 hurricane season now upon us, it is hard to think of a more timely and more compassionate tax relief proposal than one aimed at helping families cope with the costs associated with being uprooted from their homes, jobs, and communities by a natural disaster. I hope all my colleagues will show compassion for those forced to flee their homes by cosponsoring the Evacuees Tax Relief Act.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION
AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (H.R. 1256). Today is a historic day for the prevention of disease and promotion of public health in America. I commend Chairman WAXMAN, Chairman DINGELL, and Chairman PALLONE for their leadership in advancing this legislation.

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States. More than 400,000 people die in the U. S. each

year from tobacco use, including 5,600 Minnesotans. Another 8.6 million Americans are living with a serious illness caused by smoking. Unfortunately, the problem continues to grow. Every day, more than 3,500 young Americans try a cigarette for the first time. One third of these individuals will eventually die prematurely as a result of long-term tobacco use. Even those who do not choose to smoke tobacco are put in harms way—for every eight smokers who die from using tobacco, one non-smoker also loses their life.

The Food and Drug Administration, FDA, is charged with ensuring the safety of food and medicine sold in the United States, but lacks the authority to regulate one of the deadliest products in America—tobacco. This is a loophole American families cannot afford.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, of which I am an original

cosponsor, would grant the FDA the authority to regulate the advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products, particularly for young people. By prohibiting the colorful marketing of tobacco products to children, we can help prevent countless young Americans from becoming victims of deceptive advertising. This bill will also allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve all label statements and to restrict the sale, promotion, and distribution of tobacco products for the protection of public health. This legislation will also accomplish all of these important goals in a fiscally responsible manner—funding for FDA tobacco activity will be provided through a user fee on tobacco manufacturers.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to pass this bill and send it to the President to be signed into law. This is an important step to moving towards a healthier America.