

The GLI is a shining example of current regulatory approaches. It gives maximum flexibility to the States. In 1986, the Governors of all eight Great Lakes States entered into discussions with the EPA. They literally sat at the table and drafted model regulations to raise our water quality standards. On March 13 of this year, the EPA accepted the Governors' suggestions and issued a final rule on the Great Lakes Initiative.

Any efforts to undo all of this hard work would be inconsistent with the long-term bipartisan effort to provide uniform water quality standards among Great Lakes States. It will say that those 9 years of negotiating and careful thought are merely voluntary guidelines.

Under the GLI, a specific numeric criteria has been set to protect aquatic life, wildlife, and human health in our region. The GLI sets limits on PCB's, dioxin, DDT, benzene, and chlordane just to name a few. It offers guidance yes, but guidance is useless unless it is implemented.

People in my State remember, and are suffering even today from PCB's. Mothers who ate a lot of fish from the lakes during pregnancy are seeing their infants developing at a slower rate than others. Higher rates of cancer have occurred in communities whose drinking water comes from the Great Lakes. Preliminary research indicates that PCB's and other pollutants may be linked with breast cancer in women. People want their water to be protected from toxins and pollutants.

All the GLI is trying to do is to ensure that every State in the region has the same water quality standards. It simply levels the playing field for all eight States. We don't want one state undercutting another and driving our standards to lower and lower levels. If we make it voluntary, we undercut the whole purpose of the GLI. We will start the downward spiral of pollution and toxic contamination of our lakes all over again. For those of us near Lake St. Clair, last summer we got a reminder of what that could be like. We don't want to go back.

We are talking about 95 percent of this Nation's fresh water. We are talking about lakes that provide 23 million people with their drinking water. We are talking about a multibillion dollar economic resource. We are talking about a national treasure.

The American people thought we reached a consensus—that we should protect our water. We have made progress. In the Great Lakes region, the GLI was an important part of that progress. Let's not turn back the clock. Let's move forward to make our water cleaner and safer. I urge my colleagues to support clean water and to support the GLI.

NAMING PS 165 THE EDITH BERGTRAUM SCHOOL

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents in the Fifth Congressional District of New York and with the many friends of the Bergtraum family as they gather on May 19 to honor the memory of the renowned educator Edith K. Bergtraum, and to name Public School 165 in her memory.

Edith was both a personal friend and a dedicated member of the community. Her level of involvement and dedication created a yardstick by which all such activity can be measured.

A long-time activist in the Kew Gardens Hills and Flushing communities, Edith was a product of the New York City school system as well as a graduate of Hunter College of the City University of New York. Her sense of community brought her beyond the boundaries of her neighborhood; she quickly assumed leadership roles in the Kew Gardens Hills Jewish Center, the Queens County Democratic Committee, and the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Yet it was in the field of education that Edith had her most significant impact. She began her educational career when PS 165 opened and her son entered the first grade in a school that had 3,000 children but only 1,000 seats. With the support of her husband, Murry Bergtraum (a most powerful advocate for the schools children of New York City who would later become president of the City's Board of Education), Edith quickly and effectively joined the ongoing fight for the rights and education of children.

When Murry became the first president of the PS 165 Parents-Teachers Association, Edith assumed a seat on the executive board. Their joint efforts to alleviate the overcrowding in the school were successful, as three more elementary schools—PS 200, 201, and 219—were constructed nearby. When her children moved onto Junior High School 218 and Forest Hills High School, Edith followed, enriching these schools with the same dynamism that she brought to PS 165.

As her involvement grew, so did recognition of her capabilities. In 1974, Edith was elected to Community School Board 25, a position she held for 19 years. During this period, she was elected president of the local school board. She also somehow found the time to serve on citywide educational committees on special education, personnel and budget. In 1993, she was named the Queens borough representative on the search committee to select a new schools chancellor.

Mr. Speaker, as the people of Community School District 25 and those throughout New York City gather on May 19 to honor Edith K. Bergtraum, it is my hope that we will continue to be inspired and dedicated to the education of our children by following the most unique example she has set.

I call on all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in expressing our thanks and congratulations for Edith's good works to her family: her son, Howard Bergtraum, and daughter-in-law, Susan Bergtraum, and their children, Matthew, Jordan, and Andrea Bergtraum; Edith's daughter Judy Bergtraum; and Edith's daughter Marcia Bergtraum-Williams, and son-in-law, Dan Williams, and their children, Harel and Marc Williams; Edith's brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Bernice Bergtraum; and Edith's sister and brother-in-law, Nat and Janice Sommer.

With the dedication of the Edith Bergtraum School, we ensure that the people of New York will long remember a dynamic educator, a compassionate humanitarian, and a special friend.

ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE PENALTY FOR THE EXCLUSION OF GAIN ON THE SALE OF A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL OVER 55

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced legislation to correct an inequity in our current tax system. Under current law, an individual over the age of 55 is allowed a one-time exclusion of capital gain on the sale of a principal residence. This one-time exclusion invokes a marriage penalty. This legislation would eliminate the marriage penalty for the one-time exclusion of gain on the sale of a principal residence.

For example, two individuals over the age of 55 who decide to marry and sell their homes would only receive an exclusion of \$125,000. Whereas, if they did not marry and sold their homes they each would be able to receive an exclusion for \$125,000. This legislation addresses this problem. The legislation eliminates the marriage penalty by disregarding elections made before the date of marriage or elections made on homes sold after the date of marriage, but purchased before the marriage.

Fairness is an important element of tax policy. The current policy on the one-time exclusion assists individuals who are approaching retirement and it is a valuable exclusion. Our Tax Code should be fair and not discriminate against basic values such as marriage. The decision to marry should not be based on financial reasons.

I urge you to correct this inequity and support this legislation.

5715 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN ONE ROOM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues news of a special gathering that will take place on Thursday, May 18, in Castro Valley, CA. Over 50 senior citizens, each over 100 years old, will join together at Eden Medical Center for the sixth annual 100+ celebration. As best I can calculate it, 5715 years of experience and memories will be shared by 56 people at this unique gathering.

Every one of us has looked to an elder, perhaps a grandparent or great-grandparent, at different times during our lives for the wise counsel that only experience can provide. Their wit and wisdom speak of lessons learned; their knowing smiles are a reflection on decades of experience. I know my own mother, who is just 86 years old, has taught this incorrigible son an encyclopedia of lessons!

While I cannot be there on Thursday, I want to join Eden Hospital in honoring our local centenarians. The most senior of these senior citizens are 106, including Vera Sherman and Anna Simons. There are also five 105 year-

olds, including Abdul Khaliqi, Antonio Nieto, Marie Sobieski, Mary Souza, and Ethel Stenson.

Nicolasa Alcon, Elizabeth Denny, Etta Osborn, Epifania Saldana, Eva Thornton, Catherine Walker, and Lily Wilkinson are 104 this year. The 103 year-olds who will be there on Thursday are: Giorgia Angeli, Michael Branden, Lillian Garfais, Mamie McGriff, and Antonio Nava. The presence of the 102 year-olds will be filled by Anna Galvin, Jim Hendricks, Hinda Jackson, Helen Leandro, Eugenia Liorentzevitch, Erminia Oberti, Fred Vonbrethorst, Frances Wayne, and Grace Zoellner.

Marion Boone, Olga Cherepanoff, Josephine Corona, Hazel Garad, Olive Gurney, Marianne Hill, Dale Kune, Kristina Langas, Helen Minore, Marian Morken, Eva Ortiz, Irene Pearson, Lillie Seay, Mary Silva, Ernestine Smedman, Leo Valentine, and Marguerite Zugnoni, at 101, are the sophomores of this class. The freshmen, young at only 100, are: Jane Barkley, Augusta Burlingame, Alice "Pete" Clark, Althea Cummings, Leone Gardelius, Ollie Holmes, Clara Moreland, Sumako Oka, Mamie Person, Edith Irene Wasley, and Elizabeth Wershskull.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring these centenarians, especially during Older Americans Months, 1995. Their long and full lives have been a source of inspiration to their friends, family, and us all. I wish them all good health and good cheer.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, all across America, in the small towns and great cities of this country, our heritage as a nation—the physical evidence of our past—is at risk. In virtually every corner of this land, homes in which grandparents and parents grew up, communities and neighborhoods that nurtured vibrant families, schools that were good places to learn and churches and synagogues that were filled on days of prayer, have suffered the ravages of abandonment and decay.

In the decade from 1980 to 1990, Chicago lost 41,000 housing units through abandonment, Philadelphia 10,000, and St. Louis 7,000. The story in our older small communities has been the same, and the trend continues. It is important to understand that it is not just the buildings that we are losing. It is the sense of our past, the vitality of our communities and the shared values of those precious places.

We need not stand hopelessly by as passive witnesses to the loss of these irreplaceable historic resources. We can act, and to that end I am introducing today, with my colleagues Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. NEAL, Mr. ZIMMER, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. GOSS, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. TORKILDSEN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. NADLER, the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act.

This legislation is patterned after the existing Historic Rehabilitation Investment tax cred-

it. That legislation has been enormously successful in stimulating private investment in the rehabilitation of buildings of historic importance all across the country. Through its use we have been able to save and re-use a rich and diverse array of historic buildings: landmarks such as Union Station in Washington, DC, the Fox Paper Mills, a mixed-used project that was once a derelict in Appleton, WI, and the Rosa True School, an eight-unit low/moderate income rental project in an historic school building in Portland, ME. In my own State of Florida, since 1974, the existing Historic Rehabilitation Investment tax credit has resulted in 325 rehabilitation projects, leveraging \$238 million in private investment. These projects range from the restoration of art deco hotels in historic Miami Beach, bringing economic rebirth to this once decaying area, to the development of multifamily housing in the Springfield Historic District in Jacksonville.

The legislation that I am introducing today builds on the familiar structure of the existing tax credit, but with a different focus and more modest scope and cost. It is designed to empower the one major constituency that has been barred from using the existing credit—homeowners. Only those persons who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated home and occupy it as their principal residence would be entitled to the credit that this legislation would create. There would be no passive losses, no tax shelters, and no syndications under this bill.

Like the existing investment credit, the bill would provide a credit to homeowners equal to 20 percent of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures made on an eligible building that is used as a principal residence by the owner. Eligible buildings would be those that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are contributing buildings in National Register Historic Districts or in nationally certified State or local historic districts, or are individually listed on a nationally certified State or local register. As is the case with the existing credit, the rehabilitation work would have to be performed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation, although the bill would clarify the directive that the standards be interpreted in a manner that takes into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

The bill also makes provision for lower-income homebuyers who may not have sufficient Federal income tax liability to use a tax credit. It would permit such persons to receive a historic rehabilitation mortgage credit certificate which they can use with their bank to obtain a lower interest rate on their mortgage.

The credit would be available for condominiums and co-ops, as well as single-family buildings. If a building were to be rehabilitated by a developer for sale to a homeowner, the credit would pass through to the homeowner. Since one purpose of the bill is to provide incentives for middle-income and more affluent families to return to older towns and cities, the bill does not discriminate among taxpayers on the basis of income. However, it does impose a cap of \$50,000 on the amount of credit which may be taken for a principal residence.

The Historic Homeownership Tax Assistance Act will make ownership of a rehabilitated older home more affordable for homeowners of modest incomes. It will encourage more affluent families to claim a stake in older

towns and neighborhoods. It affords fiscally stressed cities and towns a way to put abandoned buildings back on the tax roles, while strengthening their income and sales tax bases. It offers developers, realtors, and homebuilders a new realm of economic opportunity in revitalizing decaying buildings.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is no panacea. Although its goals are great, its reach will be modest. But it can make a difference, and an important difference, in communities large and small all across this Nation. The American dream of owning one's home is a powerful force. This bill can help it come true for those who are prepared to make a personal commitment to join in the rescue of our priceless heritage. By their actions they can help to revitalize decaying resources of historic importance, create jobs and stimulate economic development, and restore to our older towns and cities a lost sense of purpose and community.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and an explanation of its provisions be printed in the RECORD.

HONORING THE SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC UNIT

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to a group of students from my congressional district, the members of Socorro High School's Naval Junior ROTC unit.

This unit has developed into one of the best NJROTC units in the country. It has placed first in area 11 in 3 of the last 4 years. The unit has also received the highest grade out of 360 high schools in the Nation. Under the able guidance and direction of Commander William J. Woodward, USN Ret., the cadets of our NJROTC unit have learned how to succeed in competitive situations and prevail in times of adversity.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize the tremendous support in the community of Socorro, TX for the unit. During one of the unit's ceremonial evaluations, numerous civic, fraternal, and military leaders were present as well as approximately 900 sixth through eighth graders from local elementary and middle schools. The facilities the unit uses are among the best in area 11. Classrooms, office and storage areas are spacious, well organized and very well maintained. It is very obvious that the cadets, school, and the community take a great deal of pride in the NJROTC program.

I also ask my colleagues to pay tribute to Commander Woodward's assistants: Sgt. Major Robert D. Way, USMC Ret., and Chief Petty officer Oscar R. Martinez, USN Ret. Both these individuals have provided countless hours of support and guidance enhancing the aspirations of the cadets of the unit.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the students, parents, teachers, and school administrators involved with the Socorro High School NJROTC unit. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting them and wishing them well in their future endeavors.