

to when Mount Clemens was little more than a settlement in the wilderness of Michigan. The preachers were known as circuit riders because they traveled by horseback throughout the region serving the various churches. These preachers were like a pony express to the faithful, serving as a vital link to the pioneer families by delivering the word of God.

From the very beginning, the founders of the First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens were committed to seeing the emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of the community fulfilled. The commitment of the circuit riders and the faithful who used their homes as a place of worship helped meet needs too often neglected in the secular world.

The link between First United Methodist and the development of the Mount Clemens community were and still remain evident to this day. Before the public library was established, the church library served the readers of the wilderness community. Judge Christian Clemens, for whom the city is named, often used his log court house to host church services. Today, the congregation has been assisting in projects such as McREST, the program for feeding and housing the homeless, and a newly developed program called Logos which emphasizes involving young people from the community in church related events. I commend the congregation for their ongoing work and faith.

The 175th anniversary of the founding of the church is a proud milestone. As the community prepares to celebrate the event, I applaud the church for its contributions to the rich tapestry that makes up American life in Michigan. I urge my colleagues to join with me in wishing congratulations to all the members of the First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens, MI. May the next 175 years be a continued fruitful ministry.

IN HONOR OF THE INDO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP SEMINAR IN DELHI, INDIA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to those who have coordinated a friendship seminar in Delhi, India. On February 12, 1995, the Federation of Indian Associations of New Jersey will hold the Indo-American Friendship Seminar. This federation is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, social and educational organization, committed to promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and India.

The fact that so many people are coming together in one place to promote harmony is a step in the right direction toward maintaining a positive relationship between the United States and India. I commend everyone who is taking part in this special seminar. I especially would like to thank those who have worked to coordinate it. Their dedication to making this event happen is encouraging and admirable.

I would like to acknowledge Hardyal Singh, president of the Federation of Indian Associations of New Jersey, for the role he has played in coordinating this conference. Mr. Singh has dedicated his career to serving the

Indian community in New Jersey. He was the first Indian-American to be named a special deputy sheriff of Hudson County, and was successful in his campaign to have the Indian national flag raised at Jersey City city hall. Mr. Singh's contributions to the Indian community also include the role he played in renaming public school No. 23 to Mahatma Gandhi School and was instrumental in having a statue of Gandhi installed at this site.

S. Beant Singh, chief minister of Punjab State, a recipient of the Son of India Award, deserves recognition for the part he has played in making this conference happen. I would like to offer him my congratulations for his efforts to bring peace to Punjab State.

Please join me in wishing the participants of the Indo-American Friendship Seminar a successful conference. I am confident that all of the attendees, as well as all Indians and Americans, will reap the benefits of the discussions which will be held at the seminar. Furthermore, I would like to offer my best wishes to the Federation of the Indian Associations of New Jersey in their future endeavors.

AN EVENT OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 1995

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies, in cooperation with the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Anti-Defamation League, the Greater Dallas Community of Churches, and the Greater Dallas Veterans Council, for their work in putting together an event for the entire Dallas community celebrating and honoring the 50th anniversary of those heroic individuals who participated in the liberation of concentration camps during World War II. This tribute to these fine individuals will occur on February 12 at the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

This event will most certainly rekindle memories of the worst atrocity in contemporary history and is a historical milestone that should be deeply praised. It is only through this type of continual recognition of those atrocities of the past and the heroism that stopped it that we can work to prevent such inhumanity from occurring in the future. We must remember both that while there will always be those who would commit horrendous acts against humanity, it is up to all of us to stand up and stop them. We must make certain that similar atrocities to those committed in concentration camps never do happen again. We need not look far to see that all around the world we are confronted by barbarism. We cannot ever allow ourselves to forget what terrible atrocities can occur if acts of barbarism are allowed to progress.

Again, I commend those involved with putting together this important event of remembrance.

A BALANCED BUDGET FOR THE PEOPLE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, last night we kept our promise to the American people and passed a balanced budget amendment. For years, the liberal controlled Congress acted like wild kids in a candy store. They thought every proposed government program looked tasty and grabbed them all. Now, the Nation is left with one huge fiscal stomach ache.

The new Republican controlled Congress provided the remedy last night. A balanced budget amendment will impose discipline on the indulgent habits of Congress. It will fundamentally change the way government works.

We are working hard to strip the shelves of those sweet temptations. We have a mandate from the American people—a commitment to work for less government, less spending, and less regulation. A balanced budget will work toward restoring the people's government. This is only the beginning. Now, we will continue to reject big government status quo by passing unfunded mandates legislation.

MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GI BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article written by a great American and a great friend named Col. Bernard Wray. Colonel Wray has spent his entire career advocating the needs of America's soldiers, both active and retired. In this article, Colonel Wray writes about the 50th anniversary of the passage of the GI bill of rights. I salute Colonel Wray for his commitment to America's military, and urge my colleagues to read his account of the passage of this landmark legislation.

UNITED-MANHATTAN POST No. 9 AMERICAN LEGION SALUTES THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE GI BILL OF RIGHTS

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights, was signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, in his office in the White House, flanked by Legionnaires John Stelle, former Governor of Illinois, and Commander Harry W. Colmery of Kansas, who drafted the GI Bill of Rights in December, 1943.

The American Legion Posts at the Grass Roots level, from all over the USA, demanded that Congress should provide for returning Veterans, unlike the dark days after World War I, when thousands of war veterans returned, homeless and helpless, with few places to turn for help. The American Legion rank-and-file members around the 48 states demanded a GI Bill, which was drafted entirely by the American Legion.

The GI Bill of Rights proved to be the most revolutionary piece of social and economic legislation ever enacted! It has educated over 20 million GI's, men and women Veterans, who served their Country with honor. It

has helped over 14 million veterans to buy their own homes. Veterans who came from the poorer socioeconomic areas were given educational opportunities at the best colleges. Vocational and on-the-job training for technicians were provided. Loan guarantees to help Veterans purchase homes, farms and small businesses were provided; as were the 52-20 payments to Veterans who were looking for decent permanent jobs. Veterans Administration hospitals were built, and offered war heroes like Senator Bob Dole, and Senator Dan Inouye, top rehabilitation medicine, near their home towns.

The American Legion had to use every bit of its political clout to insure that members of the House and Senate, who told the veterans that they supported the GI Bill of Rights, kept their word and voted for it. Senator George Bennett "Champ" Clark, a World War I Veteran, who served with Captain Harry Truman, and who was the original founder of the American Legion in 1919, managed the GI Bill through the US Senate; where it carried unanimously.

In the House, and in the US Senate, on February 16, 1944, for reasons only they could understand, the VFW, Disabled American Veterans and Military Order of Purple Heart, requested of the Senate Finance Committee members, that they kill the GI Bill of Rights. Committee Chairman "Champ" Clark, to his great credit, brought the GI Bill to a Committee vote. It passed unanimously. The House version of the GI Bill of Rights passed by 387 to 0. But minor differences in the House and Senate versions had to be worked out by a joint conference committee. Representative John Rankin of Mississippi tried, at the last minute, to block the GI Bill of Rights. The American Legion found the deciding vote, Representative John D. Gibson, a member of the Joint Conference Committee recuperating from an illness, down in Douglas, Georgia. On the morning of June 10, 1944, Representative John D. Gibson was flown, thanks to the efforts of the American Legion, to Washington DC where he stormed into the Joint Conference Committee room and cast the vote that broke the tie.

Millions of taxpayers who became doctors, lawyers, businessmen, clergymen, teachers, professors, entrepreneurs and responsible members of the Middle Class can thank the American Legion for their efforts, for lobbying for American Veterans. The GI Bill of Rights paid for itself by generating hundreds of billions of tax dollars paid by GI's over the next 50 years. Now, the American Legion recognizes, through its over 3,000,000 grass roots members that the original GI Bill of Rights, just as strong as the 1944 version in strength and stature, is needed. Post No. 9 will be in the front ranks in fighting for a stronger GI Bill of Rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably called away on personal business on Thursday, January 26, 1995. I was, therefore, not available to vote for rollcall Nos. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51.

Had I been present I would have voted nay on No. 41, aye on No. 43, aye on No. 44, aye on No. 45, aye on No. 46, aye on No. 47, aye on No. 48, nay on No. 49, aye on No. 50, and nay on No. 51.

PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget constitutional amendment.

It is always with reluctance that I support legislation to amend the Constitution of the United States, the greatest document of democracy the world has ever known. Its greatness is measured by the fact that it has been amended so few times before in our Nation's history.

However, Congress after Congress has proven that it lacks the fiscal discipline necessary to balance the Federal budget and begin to reduce the growing national debt, which approaches \$5 trillion. Gimmick after budgetary gimmick has failed to get our Nation's fiscal house in order. Without a willingness to cast the tough vote after tough vote required to bring Federal revenues and expenditures in line, a constitutional amendment is the only means left to instill in future Congresses the discipline necessary to bring about a balanced Federal budget.

Three times this decade we have fought this battle to amend the Constitution, and three times we were defeated by those refusing to face up to our current bleak fiscal plight. In 1990, we failed by just 11 votes to pass a balanced budget amendment at the same time our national debt reached \$3 trillion. Two years later, we failed by just 10 votes to pass this constitutional amendment, as the national debt passed \$4 trillion. Last year we tried again, but fell 19 votes short as the national debt climbed to \$4.7 trillion.

Our Nation cannot afford for this House to fail again today. With the passage of this amendment, we can look forward to the day when we begin to retire the national debt, not add to it.

One of the demands of the American people last November 8 was that Congress force the Federal Government to live within its means. This is the first of 10 legislative promises we made to the American people in our Contract With America.

Already we have delivered on our commitment to reduce the cost of running our own House, eliminate the number of congressional committees and staff, and make our proceedings more open and representative of those we are elected to serve. Earlier this month, we also enacted the Congressional Accountability Act, legislation that is now the law of the land which forces Congress to live under the same laws as every other American.

With the passage of the balanced budget amendment tonight, we will tell the American people that we are serious about reversing the tide of red ink that threatens to cripple our

economy under the weight of an annual mortgage payment on our national debt that will exceed \$339 billion this fiscal year. This is just the interest alone we pay on the national debt we have accumulated since the birth of our Nation.

The enactment of a balanced budget amendment would leave Congress with no choice but to begin the difficult task of cutting Federal spending which is the secret to eliminating deficit spending. It was my hope that the amendment requiring a three-fifths supermajority for passage of any future increases in taxes would have passed to insert greater fiscal discipline on Congress by reducing the incentive to raise more revenue rather than cut spending. It should be obvious to all that the Federal Government does not tax too little, it spends too much. Annual deficits of \$300 billion should also make it obvious that Congress always spends whatever revenue it raises and a whole lot more.

Unfortunately, the amendment we consider tonight that affords us the greatest chance at passage requires a supermajority vote to spend more than we take in any one year and to raise the debt ceiling, but only requires a simple majority vote to raise taxes. Still, the balanced budget amendment is a strong enough tool, as we have seen in each of the States that requires their annual budgets to be balanced, to restore order to our budgetary proceedings.

It is my hope that our colleagues in the other body will act as expeditiously as we have in the first month of this 104th Congress to send to the President and ultimately the States this constitutional amendment that is supported by a large majority of the American citizens.

In the meantime, it is time for this House to turn its attention to making the hard choices and cast the tough vote after vote that will get us on track to deliver to the American people a balanced Federal budget. My colleagues and I on the Appropriations Committee have already begun the task of scouring the 1995 Federal budget for savings we can return to the Federal Treasury and programs that we can eliminate to reap future savings.

Mr. Chairman, it will take a two-thirds vote tonight to pass this constitutional amendment. It is my hope that we are successful in passing this important plank in our Contract With America.

We need to remember that the tough votes to cut Federal spending begin in just a few weeks and will continue for month after month, and year after year until we succeed in our goal to achieve a balanced Federal ledger. All that is required, however, is a simply majority of this House to have the courage to make these votes that will turn our fiscal tide.

Tonight will be more than a symbolic victory. It will be the launching of a long and difficult but very necessary campaign to begin chipping away at our national debt and at the same time restoring the faith of the American people in their elected representatives. We must be up to the task this night and every day and night until our job is complete and future generations are relieved of the burden placed on them by past generations of unchecked Government spending.