

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. WAYNE ALLARD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, Congress has passed a new Taxpayers' Bill of Rights to help level the playing field between our citizens and the IRS.

The Tax Code is long and complicated, and taxpayers make legitimate mistakes on their returns. When folks make honest mistakes, they shouldn't be exposed to what often boils down to bullying and harassment by the IRS.

The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights reforms numerous tax collecting operations of the IRS to protect taxpayers. Foremost is the creation of a taxpayer advocate, who must assist taxpayers in resolving and preventing problems with the IRS. The advocate also can require the IRS to meet deadlines in performing tasks for taxpayers.

Other important provisions include changes in terminating tax payment plans, waiving interest and penalties, and awarding costs and fees in legal disputes.

Many people view the IRS as a massive bureaucracy that acts without proper authority. This important bill makes a number of changes to protect people who have legitimate grievances with the IRS, while ensuring that taxes are collected fairly.

This bill was adopted just 1 day after the House unfortunately failed to approve a tax amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The amendment would have required a full two-thirds of the House or Senate vote to approve any legislation that would increase personal, business, or other Federal taxes.

Although I am disappointed the amendment failed, I am pleased by the broad support it did receive.

Congress has proven time and again that it cannot control its urge to raise taxes. The amendment would have created more accountability and would have forced Congress to work in a more bipartisan manner on tax issues.

Passage of the second Taxpayers' Bill of Rights helps take away some of the sting from the failure of the tax amendment.

MORE INDIAN OPPRESSION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 18, the Indian police detained six Kashmiri leaders when they tried to peacefully walk to India's military headquarters in the Kashmiri capital of Srinagar to protest India's human rights violations.

The six, who are well known on Capitol Hill for their tireless efforts to win the right of self-determination for Kashmiris and are all executive members of the All Parties Hurriyat—Freedom—Conference, were stopped by police as they approached the United Nations Military Observer Group's office. Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Abdul Gani Lone, Shabir Shah, Abdul Gani Bhat, Moulana Abass Ansari, and

Yasin Malik were only allowed to walk 2 kilometers—1 mile—through the deserted streets on Srinagar before being detained by police.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, the Government of India has banned public gatherings in Kashmir to prevent protests against India for its terrible human rights violations against the people of Kashmir. In response to this continual brutality, the Hurriyat had called a strike in the Kashmir Valley and asked Kashmiris to remain indoors. Why did these leaders risk their lives to challenge India? According to Abdul Gani Bhat—one of the detainees, we walked to offer our lives to the Indian army for peace and stability in the whole sub-continent.

Most of these leaders have already narrowly escaped attempts on their lives by renegade militant groups which have been armed and supported by India's intelligence agencies. So perhaps for them—risking their lives one more time is business as usual. Nevertheless, their bravery to secure peace and happiness for the people of Kashmir should not be ignored here in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, while I wish I could say that this most recent incident is isolated—it is not. For the last decade, the Government of India has used every measure at its disposal to suppress the peace-loving people of Kashmir who desire nothing more than the internationally-recognized right of self-determination. As Thursday's events demonstrate, the leadership of India only respects the right of free speech when the words are spoken by the majority Hindu population. The time has come for the U.S. Government to forcefully condemn this tyrannical behavior and demand the immediate release of these six Kashmiri leaders.

If India ever hopes to be treated as the world class power it believes it is—it must respect human rights.

IN HONOR OF THE HOMETOWN TREES PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hometown Trees Program for its dedicated service toward improving and preserving hometown landscapes. The program which began 4 years ago will plant its 4 millionth tree on Earth Day, April 22, 1996. I would also like to take this opportunity to honor Kristin Hyman, the 9-year-old grand-prize winner in a nationwide contest on the importance of trees.

The Hometown Trees Program has prospered since its inception 4 years ago. Every spring, the program teams up with thousands of local volunteers who plant trees in their communities to ensure that future generations will enjoy their natural beauty. To date, through the Hometown Trees Program, more than 3 million trees have been rooted in over 1,500 cities in 43 States.

The program's pledge to enhance, protect and generate awareness about the environment is of great importance. The planting of one tree today will serve the community for hundreds of years to come. This program also develops amongst our children an appreciation for nature that will serve our Nation for generations that follow.

In February, a nationwide essay contest was held to increase children's environmental awareness and appreciation. I am pleased to announce to my colleagues that the winner of the nationwide event was 9-year-old Kristin Hyman of Bayonne, NJ. Her poem, "Tree Reasons," was selected from the hundreds of entries received in her age group for its creativity and uniqueness. I am proud to say that she will be honored in a special ceremony in her hometown on Earth Day.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the achievements of the Home Trees Program and its continuing commitment to the environment. I would also like to pay tribute to Kristin Hyman, a special young lady who has demonstrated to her community that no one is ever too young to care for and appreciate the environment. I am proud to have such a talented young woman living within my district.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Democratic efforts to raise the Federal minimum wage.

The proposal for a moderate 90-cent increase in 2 years is needed because workers at the minimum wage level have actually seen their real incomes decrease in the last decades. In 1979, the minimum wage was the equivalent of about \$6 per hour in 1996 dollars.

Real wages and the purchasing power of millions of families have become stagnant. We must support the incentives that reward hard work, such as a minimum wage.

When I was Governor of Puerto Rico, I took the bold step of asking the Federal Government to extend minimum wage laws to Puerto Rico, where at the time they did not apply. Special interests and many corporations lobbied hard against it, predicting economic havoc and job displacement.

Such bleak scenarios did not materialize. In fact, the minimum wage has been a blessing for the 3.7 million American citizens of Puerto Rico. It raised the standard of living of thousands of working class families, took tens of thousands of working families out of welfare and brought them added dignity.

Both sides of the aisle should seek to promote and assure a decent standard of living for all Americans. Raising the minimum wage is a wise move, based on solid economic policy and common sense.

I urge our colleagues to support raising the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour over the next 2 years. Millions of hard working Americans who deserve better economic opportunities will appreciate our leadership.

SALUTE TO DON NICOLAI, CHEVRON USA AND OLYMPIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute the contributions of

Chevron USA and particularly their dedicated employee Don Nicolai, manager of business products and services, to Olympic High School in Concord, CA.

Mr. Nicolai first became involved with Olympic High School when he served as "principal for a day" in 1994 through a local schools and business partnership initiative. That service for a day turned into much, much more, prompting the Olympic staff and students to vote to rename their guest principal "hero of the year." The expanse of Mr. Nicolai's contributions includes a donated van for transporting students, numerous pieces of equipment and furniture, work experience and summer employment opportunities for Olympic students and sponsorship of ongoing employability skills training seminars. Additionally, Mr. Nicolai has made it possible for several other Chevron employees to be present in the classrooms, working directly with students to share their professional expertise and personal talents.

Don Nicolai and Chevron USA have formed a substantive, long-term partnership with Olympic High School that goes far beyond the rhetoric of school-business partnerships or school-to-work transition. They see the value in a well-prepared work force and recognize that changing the social and economic conditions that plague our communities today must be addressed by individuals and businesses which can lend a helping hand.

I am pleased to rise today to recognize Mr. Don Nicolai, and I am confident that my colleagues join me in this tribute.

IN TRIBUTE TO DAVID LEON FORD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, 33 Americans were taken from us far too early in the plane that crashed April 3 near Dubrovnik. This morning, we paid tribute to our good friend, Secretary Ron Brown. At this time, I want to commemorate one of those brave souls traveling with the Secretary, Mr. David L. Ford.

David Ford was one of 12 American business executives accompanying Secretary Brown on a mission with the most noble goal of helping the people of Bosnia and Croatia to rebuild their war-ravaged countries. An executive with Guardian Industries, headquartered in Michigan, David was to donate 23 metric tons of flat glass to Sarajevo, enough to produce about 8,000 windows for use in rebuilding the Bosnia capital. After the trade mission ended in tragedy, the glass was delivered to Sarajevo as planned and donated to the people by the U.S. Embassy.

David Ford's career at Guardian began in 1971, and he spent time at its facilities around the country, including several years at the Guardian plant in Carleton, MI, in my congressional district. He helped lead his company's expansion into the European market, and at the time he was taken from us he headed Guardian's European operations.

We will remember David Ford as a successful businessman, but more importantly, his wife and two children will remember him as a loving husband and devoted father. He was a deeply religious man, who before his passing

was able to provide some desperately needed relief to the people of Sarajevo. There, his final effort will be honored by a plaque.

I know that my colleagues join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to his family.

TRIBUTE TO RAKI NELSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to acknowledge Raki Nelson, a young man who is destined to achieve greatness. Raki is the 1996 Watkins Award Winner, and has been honored as the premier African-American student-athlete in the country.

Raki has committed to attend Notre Dame University as a wide receiver on a full football scholarship. He has achieved recognition for not only his dazzling display on the football field, but his contributions to his community. As the recipient of the Watkins Award, he is being honored for exemplifying leadership. Franklin Watkins was one of the founding fathers of the National Alliance of African-American Athletes. The alliance lists a host of professional athletes who support the organization's endeavors, including Reggie White, Green Bay Packers; Charlie Ward, New York Knicks; and Royce Clayton of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Raki's sterling career as a wide receiver ended with 185 catches for 34 touchdowns which generated 3,132 total yards. However, the hallmark of his efforts was his community action poster. He and a fellow team member distributed and autographed posters for grade school and midget football programs throughout his home State of Pennsylvania. I am pleased to recognize one of college football's future stars, and a shining light in his own community.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA 100TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER-DANCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 20, 1996, at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, NY, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local No. 65, of Perth Amboy, NJ, will hold its 100th anniversary dinner-dance.

It is a great honor for me to join the members of Local No. 65 for this momentous occasion. The Carpenters and Joiners have consistently been a strong supporter and a tireless fighter, not only for the needs of their own members, but for the American worker in general. In a time when labor unions are being attacked and the gains that organized labor has made over the past century are under constant threat, I have stood up to defend the livable wages and good working conditions that have contributed to the creation of the great American middle class.

Mr. Speaker, this 100th anniversary is a great occasion for us all to remember the im-

portant contributions that labor unions have made and continue to make to improve the quality of life at home and abroad.

A SALUTE TO CHARLES ALFRED ANDERSON, TRAINER OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. GLEN BROWDER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House will be saddened to know that Charles Alfred Anderson, who trained the Army's first black fliers in Alabama and formed the famed Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, has died. He was 89.

Mr. Anderson was a self-taught pilot who served as the chief instructor of Tuskegee University's pilot training program from 1938 through 1945. To thousands of fliers, he was known affectionately as "Chief."

Members may recall "The Tuskegee Airmen," an HBO movie last year, which told the story of the 332d Fighter Group and its exploits over North Africa, Sicily, and Europe. Those African-American flyers destroyed 260 enemy planes, damaged an additional 148, and sank a Nazi destroyer. No U.S. bomber under the protection of the Tuskegee airmen was ever shot down.

The roster of fliers who trained under "Chief" Anderson includes Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, the Nation's first four-star black general; Coleman Young, who became mayor of Detroit; and William Coleman, Transportation Secretary under President Gerald Ford.

Mr. Anderson was an aviation pioneer, a teacher, and a great American. I wish to extend my condolences and deep sympathy to his two sons, Alfred Forsythe Anderson of Seattle and Charles A. Anderson, Jr. of Tuskegee, and to his three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Opelika-Auburn News published a wonderful account of Mr. Anderson's career and his exploits in the early days of flying. This salute to the father of black aviation was written by men who knew "Chief" well. I am attaching the article for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

An equally impressive article was published in the Tuskegee News and that is included for publication also.

[From the Opelika-Auburn News, Apr. 17, 1996]

FAMED TUSKEGEE AIRMAN DIES

(By Vascar Harris and Roosevelt J. Lewis, Jr.)

TUSKEGEE.—Charles Alfred "Chief" Anderson, a self-taught pilot who trained the military's first black flyers and formed the famed Tuskegee Airmen, died Saturday at age 89 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Anderson was born to Janie and Iverson Anderson of Bryn Mawr, Pa., and was a 56-year resident of Tuskegee Institute.

"Chief" was an inductee of the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame (1991), The International Order of the Gathering of Eagles (1990), winner of the famous Brewer Trophy (1985), and held other aviation awards. An honorary doctorate of science was conferred by Tuskegee University in 1988.

His first love was teaching new students to fly, and he amassed more than 52,000 flying hours in his lifetime.