

might say it was a holiday of sorts, but unfortunately not the kind that will get you a day off work.

May 7 was tax freedom day, and according to the nonpartisan Tax Foundation it was the day that Americans finally stopped working for the Government and started working for themselves and their families.

That's right. Americans worked from January 1 of this year up to May 7—over 4 months—just to pay for the cost of Government at all levels—Federal, State, and local. As a result of tax increases passed in 1993—which I voted against—this is the latest in the year that tax freedom day has ever fallen. That means what I think most Americans already know in their gut: taxes are too high and Government costs too much. Consider:

In 1950, the average income family of four paid less than 5 percent of its income in total taxes and one wage earner could easily support the entire family. Today that same average income family pays about 24 percent to the Federal Government alone, 38 percent when you add in State and local taxes—the highest percentage in American peacetime history.

Because taxes are so high, middle-class incomes are being squeezed—not to support the family, but to support the Government.

What's even more disturbing is that the pressure to earn more leaves us with less time and energy to spend with our children or to get involved with our church or community. And when that happens our whole Nation suffers because our children suffer.

The corrosive and damaging effect of taxation on America's working families must be corrected. One giant step in the right direction is a \$500 per child tax credit—a measure I am supporting in Congress.

With this credit, a family of four earning \$30,000 would have its 1996 Federal income tax cut in half and the entire Federal tax burden of 4.7 million working families at the lowest income levels would be eliminated completely.

I am also supporting repeal of the 1993 gas tax increase of 4.3 cents per gallon. Of all the forms of taxation, the gas tax is one of the most unfair because it falls disproportionately on those at the bottom of the economic ladder.

Combined, these two tax cuts will provide some long overdue tax relief for America's working families. And wouldn't it be nice if tax freedom day fell a little earlier next year?

A TRIBUTE TO SHELDON STIEFELD

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator and mentor in Brooklyn, Mr. Sheldon "Shelly" Stiefeld, who is retiring after 34 years of service to New York's public schools. Thousands of youngsters have learned a great deal from Shelly and his wife. Their tireless work and energy have done much to ensure the success of Brooklyn students.

I am especially familiar with Shelly's outstanding teaching abilities as he was my world

history teacher at James Madison High School in Brooklyn. As an 11th grader, I was dazzled by his animated lectures and became entranced by his knowledge of different cultures and traditions. I am deeply grateful to him for giving me a strong basis for a future career in government.

It gives me great pleasure to join all the parents, students and friends in honor of Shelly Stiefeld's commitment to public education and academic excellence. My educational training under Shelly left me with a positive view of Brooklyn public schools. My own children follow the same path, as they also attend public schools. Shelly's retirement will certainly come as a loss to those who were fortunate enough to grow under his tutelage.

ST. CROIX HIGH SCHOOL MIXED CHORUS, JAZZ CHOIR AND VISUAL ENSEMBLE

HON. VICTOR O. FRAZER

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the St. Croix Central High School Mixed Chorus, Jazz Choir, and Visuals Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Otis Alexander. Their recent participation in the North American Music Festival which was held at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, and McEachern High School in Powder Springs, GA, on April 10–14, 1996, is reflective of their desire to excel.

The mixed chorus in the open Division AAA and the jazz choir in the same division won two trophies for outstanding performances. The visual ensemble received a plaque for the excellent choreography which was set to the music "Magdalena" by Sergio Mendez.

Fourteen high school choruses, jazz choirs, madrigal singers, marching bands, and orchestras from four States and the Virgin Islands competed in this national music festival. The Virgin Islands performance is a testament to their hard work and determination to succeed. Their accomplishments are also a reflection of the dedication of Mr. Otis Alexander, and accompanists Mr. Daryl Richards and Ms. Barbara Brown.

The 57 students from St. Croix Central High School enjoyed the honor of bringing to the Virgin Islands two trophies and a plaque which symbolized their excellent performance. Their participation in this music festival will be etched in their minds for many years to come.

The following students are true Ambassadors for the U.S. Virgin Islands: Rawlston Benjamin, Jermain Blair, Ajene Browne, Junita Chapman, Josette Cobb, Arthur Connor, Dwayne Cromwell, Diane Cruickshank, Kenya Daniels, Kaleema de'Lande, Angel Felix, Colleen Francis, Jeannette Garcia, Brian Gardine, Craig George, Pete Gibson, Cherie Gordon, Tishri Greenidge, Frank Griffith, Germaine Gumbs, Juana Gumbs, Randy Haile, Jo-Ann Hamilton, Kysha Hendricks, Jenee James, Cliff John, David Jones, Tena Lee, Nicole Logan, Cory McAlpin, Jada McAlpin, Showayne Modeste, Kalila Moorehead, Roberta Munoz, Antonia Navarra, Raymond O'Reilly, Lisa Pascal, Kirby Pascal, Jason Polius, Louisa Prosper, Rona Rawlins, Cheray Reid, Shawn Robles, Travis Rogers, Mervelle

Sage, Lloyd Samuel, Erolyn Sweeney, Marsha Taylor, Akeda Thomas, Latisha Tonge, Estelle Torrens, Isabel Torrens, Tamyka Weekes, Hassan West, Naqueeba Wynter, and Wendy Wynter.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Mr. Otis D. Alexander, Mr. Daryl Richards, Ms. Barbara Brown, and the members of the St. Croix Central High School Mixed Chorus, Jazz Choir, and Visual Ensemble for the outstanding contributions they have made on behalf of the Virgin Islands. I wish them the very best as they continue to fulfill their dreams.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI AND SARA GARSEK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Edward and Sara Garsek as they leave our community after more than 20 years of service. Since 1975, Rabbi Garsek has served as the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Congregation Etz Chayim in Toledo. In that capacity he has earned the admiration and respect of the entire Jewish community and beyond that all of the citizenry of our city. Through these years he and his wife Sara have worked lovingly and consistently to raise the spirituality of their extended Toledo family.

An integral part of the Garseks' roles as rabbi and rebbetzin has been as teachers—filling an enormous need in our community, teaching audit education courses, Hebrew High School, Community Hebrew School, as well as Sunday religious school. The benefit of their professionalism is most keenly felt at the Hebrew Academy of Toledo, where they meet daily with their pupils. They will be long remembered by their students.

Rabbi Garsek leads his congregation with a wonderful sense of humility, a warm sense of humor, and a passionate love of Israel—the People and the State. Sara is his perfect complement, a tower of strength in her knowledge, believe, and devotion to the words of the Torah. We in Toledo know them to live by the words of Hillel, "Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace; be one who loves human beings and draws them near to Torah."

Rabbi and Sarah Garsek came to Congregation Etz Chayim bringing with them three very young girls, Chaya, Esther, and Devorah. Over the years, they have been blessed with four more beautiful children, Zev, Shoahana, Rachael, and Yitzchak; a son-in-law, David; and two grandsons, Bentzion and Akiva.

Rabbi and Sara Garsek will be missed, but we know their presence will grace their new community as it has ours.

CONGRATULATING LT. COL. AND MRS. KENNETH P. STUART ON 45 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize a husband and wife who have made

a lasting difference in the lives of over 1,000 cadets during their 45 years of service at Carson Long Military Institute; Lt. Col. and Mrs. Kenneth P. Stuart. This June Lieutenant Colonel Stuart and his wife will end their magnificent careers at Pennsylvania's oldest military school, Carson Long in New Bloomfield, PA.

During his service, Colonel Stuart influenced the lives of over 1,300 young cadets. Since beginning his service in 1951, he has coached three sports, football, basketball, and baseball; he has served as the social studies department head, a building officer, the assistant to the president, and as the commandant of cadets.

Mrs. Stuart likewise shares a distinguished record of service at Carson Long. During her 20 years of service she has served as the librarian for the institute—a very important position in a school of higher learning, and as the social director for the institute since 1971.

I want to commend the outstanding efforts of these hard-working, exceptionally bright and dedicated educators. As our Nation looks for solutions to its many social shortcomings, the dedicated lives of these two brilliant people should shine as an example to our society on how to build communities and lives with purpose.

The Carson Long Military Institute has a long and honorable tradition dating back over 160 years to its founding in 1836. I know the staff and cadets of Carson Long are proud to be associated with such an historic institution and it is through this pride in Carson Long that they share in the lifelong dedication of these two great individuals.

Through their lives they have truly exemplified the ideal of community service and as a nation, we must be proud to have such individuals in our society. I for one am privileged that they reside in central Pennsylvania.

As the Colonel and Mrs. Stuart begin to celebrate their retirement, I know that all of the Members of Congress join me in wishing them every happiness in return and all the success in their future endeavors.

HONORING VIRGINIA DENT AND AURORA GAREISS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues and members of the Environmental Law Institute and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as they gather on Thursday, May 30, to present Virginia Dent and Aurora Gareiss with the 1996 National Wetlands Award for volunteer leadership.

For the past 30 years, Virginia and Aurora have initiated programs to save the considerable salt marsh and freshwater estuaries surrounding Little Neck Bay in Little Neck, NY. Their heroic efforts have led to the acquisition of a series of wetland complexes throughout Queens, including, but not limited to, the 135-acre Udalls Cove Park Preserve, now protected by the New York City and State park systems.

However, Mr. Speaker, Virginia and Aurora's good work extends far beyond this valuable project. They have tirelessly strived to put an end to illegal dumping—a highly detrimen-

tal practice with far-reaching effects. Additionally, they have long tried to promote understanding of the causal link between environmental and physical health. In this vein, Virginia has served as the executive director of the New York State Northeast Queens Nature and Historical Preserve Commission, while Aurora has served as its commissioner. Furthermore, Virginia has spent the past 15 years on the Queens Borough president's Flushing Bay task force.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia and Aurora have come to symbolize the American spirit of voluntarism and generosity. I ask all my colleagues to rise with the grateful people of the Fifth Congressional District in extending to Virginia Dent and Aurora Gareiss the highest accolades of appreciation and admiration.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION IS TOTAL OUTRAGE

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, during the Vietnam war, journalists opposed to United States involvement sought to "bring the war into our living rooms" by showing images of the carnage and suffering on the nightly news. It made for disturbing viewing, but was effective in turning American public opinion against the war. It is in that tradition that I share with you the following description of something called partial-birth abortion, one of the most inhumane acts imaginable.

In this very late-term procedure, a breech position, feet first—labor is drug-induced and the baby is completely delivered except for the head. The baby is now moments and inches from birth—and from all the protections afforded by Federal and State law. But the birth is interrupted. The head is forced to remain in the canal. The base of the skull is then punctured, a vacuum catheter is inserted into the head, and the contents are suctioned out. The skull collapses, the baby dies, and the abortion is complete.

On April 10, President Clinton vetoed a bill passed by large majorities in each Chamber of Congress that would have outlawed this practice, a bill I was proud to help write as a member of the Judiciary Committee.

The President defended his veto on the grounds that the bill did not provide an exception for the health of the mother. But he knows full well that the Supreme Court has defined maternal health as "all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age—relevant to the well-being of the patient." In other words, a health exception—which is synonymous with abortion-on-demand—would have gutted the bill. Also, the bill does provide an exception to save the life of the mother, even though in reality this grotesque procedure is never the only option available.

In response to this outrage, the Vatican took the unusual step of condemning the President's veto, calling it shameful and an incredibly brutal act of aggression against human life. It warned that legalizing partial-birth abortions "endangers morally and ethically the future of the society that allows it."

In addition, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, headed by Bishop Anthony

Pilla of Cleveland, wrote this stinging rebuke: "Mr. President, you and you alone had the choice of whether or not to allow children, almost completely born, to be killed brutally in partial-birth abortions. Your choice was to say yes and to allow this killing more akin to infanticide than abortion to continue."

While there may be a large difference of opinion in the way that Americans view the issue of abortion, on this issue they are of one mind. In fact, recent polls show that almost 80 percent of women and 65 percent of those who describe themselves as pro-choice oppose partial-birth abortions.

By his veto the President has shown that for all his talk about making abortion safe, legal, and rare, he is a captive of abortion-on-demand extremists. If he will not outlaw this heinous practice that affects "only" a thousand or so babies a year, he will never support any abortion restrictions.

One thing is certain, this issue will not go away. President Clinton will have to explain why, when it came time to choose between the culture of life and the culture of death, he chose death.

HONORING LIVONIA CTC COMPUTER STUDENTS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my district's latest national champions—Livonia Career/Technical Center students Eric Bode, Jill Thompson, and Mike Purcell.

For the second straight year, Livonia CTC computer programming students have finished 1–2–3 in the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference's competition.

In Phoenix, AZ, more than 4,000 delegates throughout the United States participated in the conference which included competitive events, leadership workshops and keynote speakers. More than 375 high school and college students who participated in the events were from Michigan. And for the fourth-straight year, Michigan won the most awards.

Congratulations Eric, Jill, and Mile. Once again, you have not only distinguished yourself with your outstanding performance, you have highlighted the excellent work of Livonia CTC, computer programming teacher Dennis Vince and Principal Janet Haas.

Vocational education, as well as improved leadership and development of our future business leaders is vital to our country's future. Livonia CTC is playing their part. I am very proud of their great work and their outstanding, success-driven students.

TRIBUTE TO TALLY C. TALBOT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 25, a retirement party is being held in honor of Tally C. Talbot. Mr. Talbot is