

Mr. Speaker, the real tragedy is that stories such as this can be told by countless Americans struggling to build a better life for themselves and their children. To those who deride the Republican tax bill, I would challenge you to explain to Mr. States how a Tax Code that stifles investment, discourages savings, and destroys the American dream should not be reformed. I cannot give such an explanation. That is why I insist on meaningful reductions in capital gains tax rates.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHING EXCELLENCE FOR ALL CHILDREN [TEACH] ACT OF 1997

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday July 24, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer the Teaching Excellence for All Children [TEACH] Act of 1997.

This legislation addresses a longstanding concern that many of our Nation's school children are being taught by teachers who are not qualified to teach in their subject areas. This is a disservice to students, to parents, to the teachers themselves, and to taxpayers.

The problem, documented in several studies, will only get worse as the student population continues to rise along with the demand for ever more new teachers.

Parents have a right to know whether their children are being instructed by qualified teachers. And taxpayers have a right to expect Congress to do all it can to ensure that Federal education dollars are being spent in a responsible manner. I believe this legislation addresses both of those important demands.

Under this legislation, States receiving Federal education funds would set clear standards for teacher quality. The bill also will ensure accountability for federally supported teacher education, provide financial rewards to teachers who choose to teach in high-need schools and who pursue advanced teaching credentials, and establish local community partnerships to help to schools to recruit and retain qualified teachers.

TWO MILLION TEACHERS NEEDED OVER NEXT 9 YEARS

The number of elementary and secondary school students is expected to increase each successive year between now and the year 2006, from the current level of 51.7 million to an all time high of 54.6 million.

The need for qualified teachers will increase accordingly. Between now and 2006, enrollment and teacher retirement together will create demand for an additional 2 million teachers.

The shortage right now of qualified teachers to fill this demand is a significant barrier to students receiving an appropriate education.

TOO MANY TEACHERS ARE NOT FULLY QUALIFIED TO TEACH IN THEIR SUBJECT AREAS

Last September, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future found that one-quarter of classroom teachers were already not fully qualified to teach their subject areas. An even newer report—forthcoming from the Department of Education—indicates that 36 percent of teachers have neither a major nor minor in their main teaching field. Both reports show that the problem is even more serious in academic subjects such as

math and science and in schools with high numbers of low-income and minority children.

Research evidence suggests that teacher quality is probably the single most important factor influencing student achievement. Now is the time to redouble efforts to ensure that all teachers in our Nation's public schools are properly prepared and qualified and that they also receive the ongoing support and professional development they need to be effective educators.

A FAIR DEAL FOR TEACHERS

Teachers are among the hardest working people in our country and they certainly have one of the most important jobs in our country. The vast majority of teachers deserve our wholehearted admiration, respect, and gratitude.

Unfortunately, our public policies have not always reflected this attitude. As the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development recently pointed out, "teacher education, which encompasses preservice preparation as well as ongoing professional development, has suffered a chronic lack of funding, resources, and status in the United States, particularly as compared to education in other professional fields."

In addition, the Teaching for America's Future report pointed out that: "Not only do U.S. teachers teach more hours per day but they also take more work home to complete at night, on the weekends and holidays." At the same time, the report goes on to say that "Other industrialized countries fund their schools equally and make sure there are qualified teachers for all of them by underwriting teacher preparation and salaries. However, teachers in the United States must go into substantial debt to become prepared for a field that in most States pays less than any other occupation requiring a college degree."

I think the public is willing to address these issues. Education tops the list of concerns in most public opinion polls. But at the same time, parents and taxpayers want greater accountability to ensure that any additional resources directed at improving teacher quality have a maximal impact on student achievement.

By coupling support for teachers with enhanced accountability, this bill is a win-win for all those involved: educators, parents, taxpayers, and, above all, our Nation's school children.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

Last week, the President announced his intent to put the issue of teacher quality at the top of his educational agenda. With the issue of teacher qualifications receiving increased attention in Washington and across the Nation, I am more optimistic than ever that we can work together to achieve the goals set out in this legislation. I look forward to working with the President and my colleagues on this important issue.

TRIBUTE TO SUE NELSON

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sue Nelson, a resident of my hometown of Windsor, CA. She was just recently se-

lected as the Windsor Chamber of Commerce's 1997 "Business Person of the Year." The chamber made a very fitting selection.

Sue is a businesswoman of 20 years and is currently the president of the Brelje & Race, Sonoma County's largest engineering company. In that capacity she has been a dynamic force in the chamber's activities, placing her and the company's support firmly behind virtually every chamber event over the last several years.

She worked on the Windsor Map, the new town brochure put together with volunteers from the chamber. She also worked on the Windsor Festival.

Her community work has not been limited to the beneficial work of the chamber: She is a member and past president of the Windsor Rotary Club, as well as a trustee of the Boys and Girls Club.

It is the good work and dedicated community activism of individuals like Sue Nelson that builds and strengthens the communities in which our families and children live. I am particularly pleased that my hometown chamber of commerce has chosen such a deserving recipient for their annual honors. I offer my warm congratulations to Sue Nelson for a continuing job well done.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION RESTORATION ACT OF 1997

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 1997 I introduced H.R. 2220, the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Act of 1997, legislation that will begin to address an inherent unfairness under present law that affects the surviving widows of our Nation's veterans. As you know, many of these veterans gave their lives for our country, yet their surviving spouses are now being denied benefits that were promised to them.

In 1970, Congress enacted legislation that guaranteed widows of military veterans who died from service-connected disability that their dependency and indemnity compensation [DIC] benefits would be reinstated upon the termination of the widow's subsequent marriage(s) by death or divorce.

The apparent rationale behind this reinstatement policy was twofold: First, to encourage DIC widows to remarry, thereby removing them from the DIC rolls and saving the Federal Government money; and second, to bring Veterans' benefits statutes in line with other Federal survivor programs—e.g. Federal Civil Service employees, Social Security annuitants—which granted reinstatement rights in this instance.

However, in 1990, Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 which abruptly terminated DIC reinstatement rights for widows who lost these benefits upon remarriage. To make matters worse, the Department of Veterans Affairs never formally notified DIC widows of their loss of reinstatement rights, thereby relegating notice to be disseminated by word-of-mouth or by notices in publications of military and retiree organizations.

As you would suspect, many widows continued to apply to the VA for reinstatement of their benefits, only to learn for the first time that their benefits were being denied. Imagine the shock and surprise of these widows who were never notified of the change in the law, many making financial planning decisions under the mistaken assumption that they would be eligible for reinstatement if their subsequent marriage ended by death or divorce.

Mr. Speaker, my bill will reinstate DIC eligibility for widows who were remarried before November 1, 1990, and whose second or subsequent marriage is terminated by death or divorce. Recognizing the budget restraints under which Congress must operate, I initially have set the compensation rate at 50 percent of the current DIC rate. The bill would also require the Department of Veterans Affairs to notify all current and previously eligible DIC widows of the change.

I would also like to thank one of my constituents, Lt. Col. Raymond Russell—Ret. USAF—for his dedication to veterans' issues and his assistance with H.R. 2220. Lieutenant Colonel Russell is the legislative officer for the Joint Veterans Alliance of Burlington County; New Jersey State Council of Chapters—Retired Officers Association [ROA]; and Lakes and Pines Chapter—ROA.

I urge all of my colleagues to please consider supporting this bill.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE FOR
SCIENCE

HON. SIDNEY R. YATES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with the Members of this House an article that appeared in the July 3, 1997 edition of the USA Today concerning the new and novel research techniques that the Weizmann Institute for Science in Rehovot, Israel, has developed to help identify tumors as benign, or malignant, without invasive surgery.

Finding cancer without subjecting the individual to a traumatic procedure promises to increase the possibility of early detection and ultimately save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the full text of the article be placed in the RECORD so that my colleagues may have an opportunity to read about this revolutionary new procedure.

FINDING CANCER WITHOUT BIOPSIES

(By Steve Sternberg)

Researchers have found a novel way to peer beneath the surface of the intact human breast and tell benign lumps from malignant ones, according to a report out today.

The technique, if proven reliable in large-scale studies, promises to spare women with breast lumps the discomfort of a biopsy, during which doctors remove a bit of suspect tissue for close examination.

Although this research focuses on breast tumors, doctors say the method also may help diagnose other tumors and monitor treatment.

Hadassa Degani, lead author of a report appearing in today's *Nature Medicine*, says the method uses a standard diagnostic tool in a new way. The tool is known as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which detects magnetic oscillations deep within tissues.

With the help of a computer, MRI turns this information into images—a rapid sequence of them or one at a time. By taking individual frames, the researchers can obtain detailed images of the tissues' architecture, showing whether cells are densely or loosely packed and whether blood vessels are normal or riddled with leaks.

Degani, of the Weizmann Institute for Science in Rehovot, Israel, and colleagues inject the breast with a fluid that shows up in high contrast in an MRI image. They create one image before the fluid is injected and two afterward. Using three images, rather than a rapid sequence of them, guarantees clear resolution.

By carefully timing the three exposures, doctors can also observe dynamic changes as the contrast medium penetrates the breast tissues. Cancerous tissues show up as a wildly disorganized jumble of cells, with black regions of dead cells and tangles of leaky blood vessels. Normal tissues are more orderly and less compressed, with normal blood vessels.

Degani says that potentially "any abnormally can be diagnosed, monitored and assessed."

Mitchell Schnall, head of MRI at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia, praises her work. "She's done some careful studies to lay the groundwork for us to understand what we see in breast studies by MRI."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. EUGENE
SHOEMAKER AND DR. JURGEN
RAHE

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, we have all been enthralled by the exciting images we have been receiving from the Mars Pathfinder since its successful landing on the 4th of July. I think that we all would join in congratulating the team of scientists, engineers, and managers who made this amazing mission a reality.

Yet as we celebrate another success in the ongoing exploration of space, I believe that we also need to pause to honor the memory of two individuals who are no longer with us, but who have done much to help us better understand our solar system: Dr. Eugene Shoemaker and Dr. Jurgen Rahe. We had just begun to come to terms with the tragic loss last December of Dr. Carl Sagan, the distinguished astronomer and advocate for scientific reason, and now we have lost two more gifted space scientists. We mourn their deaths, but we also celebrate their accomplishments.

Dr. Shoemaker was a distinguished geologist and discoverer or co-discoverer of some 820 asteroids and comets. Perhaps his most famous discovery was that of the Shoemaker-Levy Comet, which was discovered by him, his wife Carolyn, and Mr. David Levy. I was that comet's spectacular collision with the planet Jupiter that stirred public interest in the possibility of comets or asteroids someday impacting the Earth with disastrous consequences.

However, Dr. Shoemaker had long been concerned with the potential for such impacts from his earliest days as a scientist when he was able to demonstrate that Arizona's meteor crater was likely the result of an impact by an

asteroid. Throughout his career, he did much to increase public and scientific awareness of the potential threat posed by Earth orbit-crossing asteroids and comets, and he was a tireless champion of the need to detect and catalog those objects. I had come to rely on his insights and vision as Congress has attempted to come to grips with the public policy implications of a phenomenon that has a low probability of occurrence but that carries severe consequences for life on Earth. I shall miss him.

Dr. Rahe was also a distinguished scientist and a leading figure in NASA's solar system exploration program. I think that his impact on NASA's activities was well stated by Dr. Wesley Huntress, NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Science, when he said that under Dr. Rahe's leadership, "NASA's planetary exploration program was experiencing an almost unparalleled period of major discoveries at the same time that a number of new missions were being started and launched. His legacy to the exploration of space is large, and I like to think that Jurgen's ideas, hopes, and dreams are aboard many of the spacecraft now headed to the frontiers of our Solar System."

Both of these men were outstanding individuals in their profession. However, each also was a man with a strong sense of integrity and a love of life and of learning. Dr. Shoemaker and Dr. Rahe made the world a better place, and I know that all Members join me in expressing our deep sympathy to their families.

I include herewith obituaries of these two great scientists.

EUGENE SHOEMAKER DIES; DISCOVERED GIANT
COMET

PHOENIX.—Eugene Shoemaker, 69, the geologist-astronomer who warned about the dangers of asteroids hitting Earth and who helped discover the giant Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet that slammed into Jupiter in 1994, died July 18 of injuries suffered in a car crash in outback Australia. He lived in Flagstaff, Ariz.

His wife, fellow Lowell Observatory astronomer Carolyn Shoemaker, suffered hip and chest injuries in the crash but was in stable condition at a hospital, authorities said. The car they were riding in collided head-on with another car on a dirt road about 310 miles north of Alice Springs, authorities said.

Dr. Shoemaker and his wife had discovered about 20 comets and 800 asteroids, but they were best known for the discovery with amateur astronomer David Levy of the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9, which broke up and smashed into Jupiter's gaseous atmosphere in 1994. The team had been searching the sky for new comets.

It was Dr. Shoemaker's fascination with asteroid impacts—such as the one that caused a Meteor Crater near his home—that drove most of his work.

A geologist by training, he was a leading expert on craters and the interplanetary collisions that caused them. He first proved to the scientific community that Meteor Crater was indeed the result of an asteroid impact, said University of Arizona planetary scientist Larry Lebofsky.

He also was the author of an influential paper in the early 1960s comparing Meteor Crater with a large crater on the moon.

Dr. Shoemaker, a Los Angeles native, was a 1947 graduate of the California Institute of Technology. He received a doctorate in geology from Princeton University. He worked for the U.S. Geological Survey from 1948 until retiring in 1993.