

When these trust funds were established, the American taxpayer consented to paying dedicated excise taxes (for example, the gas tax and the airline ticket tax). In return, the Federal Government promised to spend these use-related taxes for infrastructure improvements. To signify the fiduciary responsibility the Federal Government was undertaking, trust funds were established to keep track of receipts and spending. The government further promised that any unspent balances would be invested in the safest security possible—U.S. Government securities.

The current existence of over \$30 billion in cash balances in these funds makes a mockery of these promises. For years, we have attempted to appropriately spend the funds in these trust funds, yet the balances continue to rise. This bill is the best available means to the real goal of insuring that these dedicated funds are spent for their intended purposes.

Support for the Truth in Budgeting bill is entirely consistent with support for a balanced budget or a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. According to CBO, the Truth in Budgeting Act does not, by itself, spend any additional funds. We have always been committed to working out reasonable spending levels to draw down the balances while continuing on track to reach a balanced budget. Indeed, due to their self-financing nature, these trust funds are model programs for how to balance the budget.

In addition, due to the unique nature of these four transportation trust funds, there will not be a stampede of other trust funds deserving of the same off-budget treatment. Unlike other trust funds, these four funds are totally user financed, deficit proof, not entitlements, and annually controlled.

There is a strong argument that releasing these funds for infrastructure improvements will actually make it easier to balance the budget. A recent study funded by the Department of Transportation found that since the 1950's, industry realized production cost saving of 24 cents for each dollar of investment in highways. In other words, a dollar of highway investment paid for itself within 4 years.

A \$1 billion expenditure on highways supports 56,600 full time jobs: 42,100 of these jobs are in highway construction and supply industries and an additional 14,500 jobs are in other industries throughout the economy.

A well-managed program of infrastructure investment improves the Nation's productivity and economy, making it easier to balance the budget.

A wide cross-section of business, labor, and government organizations recognizes these facts and supports the Truth in Budgeting Act. In all, 94 organizations are part of a Truth in Budgeting Coalition working to pass this legislation.

Support for the Truth in Budgeting Act is a win-win situation. Taking the transportation trust funds off-budget restores faith with the American taxpayer over the promises made when these taxes were enacted. Spending from the trust funds is still completely subject to congressional control, is consistent with a balanced budget, and can help the economy, making it easier to reach a balance.

COMMON LANGUAGE, COMMON SENSE: THE BILL EMERSON ENGLISH LANGUAGE EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation making English the official language of the U.S. Government. Similar legislation in the 104th Congress (H.R. 123) drew 197 bipartisan House cosponsors, and won a bipartisan 259-169 House vote on August 1, 1996.

The Bill Emerson English Language Empowerment Act represents a commonsense, common language policy. The legislation:

Names English as the official language of the Government of the United States;

Recognizes our historical linguistic and cultural diversity, while finding that English represents a common bond of Americans, and is the language of opportunity in the United States;

Requires the U.S. Government to conduct its official business in English, and to conduct naturalization ceremonies in English;

Entitles every person in the U.S. to receive official communications in English;

Includes commonsense exceptions to the policy, such as for international relations, national security, teaching of languages, preservation of Native Alaskan or Native American languages, and for any use of English in a nonofficial or private capacity;

Is supported by 86 percent of all Americans, 81 percent of immigrants (Luntz, 1996), and a broad range of mainstream citizen organizations, such as U.S. English, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and others.

The only substantial difference between this bill and the H.R. 123 adopted by the House in 1996 is that the House-passed bill incorporated a repeal of the Federal bilingual ballot mandate, H.R. 351, and this bill does not. I continue to support repeal of the Federal bilingual ballot mandate. This arrangement helps simplify the bill's referral to only one House committee.

Our late colleague, Representative Bill Emerson worked for many years to make English the official language of the U.S. Government. Through his goodwill, we had an historic and successful first-ever House vote on the issue in the 104th Congress. His widow and successor, Representative JoAnn Emerson is the first cosponsor of this legislation in the 105th Congress.

I invite Members to cosponsor the Bill Emerson English Language Empowerment Act in the 105th Congress, so we may enact this positive and constructive legislation.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL PRAYER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a constitutional amendment to en-

sure that students can choose to pray in school. Regrettably, the notion of the separation of church and state has been widely misrepresented in recent years, and the Government has strayed far from the vision of America as established by the Founding Fathers.

Our Founding Fathers had the foresight and wisdom to understand that a Government cannot secure the freedom of religion if at the same time it favors one religion over another through official actions. Their philosophy was one of evenhanded treatment of the different faiths practiced in America, a philosophy that was at the very core of what their new Nation was to be about. Somehow, this philosophy is often interpreted today to mean that religion has no place at all in public life, no matter what its form. President Reagan summarized the situation well when he remarked, "The First Amendment of the Constitution was not written to protect the people of the country from religious values; it was written to protect religious values from government tyranny." And this is what voluntary school prayer is about, making sure that prayer, regardless of its denomination, is protected.

There can be little doubt that no student should be forced to pray in a certain fashion or be forced to pray at all. At the same time, a student should not be prohibited from praying, just because he-she is attending a public school. This straightforward principle is lost on the liberal courts and high-minded bureaucrats who have systematically eroded the right to voluntary school prayer, and it is now necessary to correct the situation through a constitutional amendment. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and make a strong statement in support of the freedom of religion.

A BEACON-OF-HOPE FOR ALL AMERICANS: KENNETH TAYLOR

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, with the 1996 election behind us, this Nation has completed another cycle for the ongoing democratic process which makes America great. The electoral process and the public officials selected through this process are invaluable assets in our quest to promote the general welfare and to guarantee the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is important, however, Mr. Speaker, that we also give due recognition to the equally valuable contribution of non-elected leaders throughout our Nation. The fabric of our society is generally enhanced and enriched by the hard work done year after year by ordinary volunteer citizens. Especially in our inner-city communities which suffer from long public policy neglect, local grassroots leaders provide invaluable service. These are men and women who engage in activities which generate hope. I salute all such heroes and heroines as Beacons-of-Hope.

Kenneth Taylor is one of these Beacons-of-Hope residing in the central Brooklyn community of New York City and New York State. In 1982, Mr. Taylor offered his services as a volunteer in the office of Congressman MAJOR OWENS and later rose to the position of deputy

district director. During the course of his tenure there, he assisted thousands of constituents with various problems. He became an expert at resolving immigration problems and was recognized throughout the city. After nearly 13 years with Congressman OWENS, Mr. Taylor retired; however he remains active in his community.

Kenneth Taylor also devotes much of his time to music. He serves as an organist, composer, and arranger for his church in Brooklyn. Moreover, he is vice president of the 100 Men for Major Owens; member of District 65; and member of Sigma Alpha Delta.

Shortly after his arrival from his native country of Cuba, Kenneth Taylor enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in France and Germany. At the end of his enlistment, he received an honorable discharge. He, thereafter, attended Bernard Baruch College where he graduated with a bachelor of arts in management. He also received a certificate in paralegal studies from Long Island University and completed an internship with the corporate counsel of the city of New York.

Kenneth Taylor is a Beacon-of-Hope for central Brooklyn and for all Americans.

SALUTE TO JAMES JOHN LENIHAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker. In an era when hard work and dedication to the public good sometimes seem outdated, we need to be reminded what personal character and long-term commitment mean. It is the men and woman who work hard, raise children and contribute to the quality of their neighbor's lives who are the true heroes of American life.

Jim Lenihan is such a person. Jim graduated from the University of San Francisco, married his wife, Nancy, and began a long and successful career in the insurance business which lasted forty years. During this time, Jim and Nancy raised their five children, while Jim found time to engage in a host of civic activities in Mountain View and Santa Clara County. A dedicated family man who also worked hard to give back to his community, Jim is much loved in Mountain View. In 1960, Jim began his other career in the water resources field by being elected Board Director of the Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District, the predecessor to today's Santa Clara Valley Water District in San Jose, CA.

Jim has served for 36 years on the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board as a guiding force for thoughtful water resources management. During his tenure, Jim had a leading role in the critical decisions facing the District in the development of a reliable water supply for the County. Specifically, Jim was involved in the development of the San Felipe Water Importation System, the Guadalupe River Flood Control Project, the State Water Project and a host of state and federal water policy issues. His early involvement and effective leadership to secure local, state and federal finding in support of the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project has helped make Santa Clara County and the State of California leaders in the stewardship of our water resources. One of Jim's key successes

and one which our County long profit from was Jim's hands-on involvement and support for the approval and construction of the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project. This project, for the first time, brought federal water into our County. His leadership was critical at a time when many did not think it was possible to overcome all the hurdles involved in bringing Federal water to our area. But Jim did.

Throughout his career, the governors of California have sought out Jim's counsel and leadership naming him to numerous boards and task forces on California's more difficult water issues ranging from Auburn Dam to the transfer of the Central Valley Project to the state. Jim also served for ten critical years as a governor's appointee to the California Water Commission. This assignment brought him to Washington to make California's case for increased funding for our water initiatives. Many stories are told of Jim's tenacious, but thoughtful support for California's projects among the appropriations committee staff and federal agencies—and what a difference he made.

I was privileged to see Jim in action last spring as he led a San Jose contingent to Washington to make the case for key funding levels for the Guadalupe River Project. His sincere feeling for the protection of his constituents, coupled with his knowledge of the appropriations process and his Irish wit and good humor made for a winning combination. This enabled the County's federal representatives to secure federal funding in difficult financial times. Jim's been working his magic for our County now for 36 years—we cannot afford for him to retire.

But retire he will in late January 1997 to Watsonville, CA, with Nancy where he will enjoy his five children and plan for the next phase of his tremendous career. We know Jim will stay involved in California water issues and as the County's elder statesman on water policy, we look forward to calling on him for his wisdom and insight in the years ahead.

And so Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my fellow Californians' utmost gratitude to Mr. Jim Lenihan for a job well-done earning him a list of sterling achievements rarely matched among our state's leaders in water policy development.

A TRIBUTE TO THE RAIDERS OF MOWEAQUA, IL

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a group of dedicated high school athletes that I am proud to say are from my district. The Central A&M Raiders football team recently won Second Place in the Illinois Class 2A State Football Championship and finished their season with a record of 12 wins and 2 losses.

The consolidated school districts of Assumption and Moweaqua have produced a football dynasty in central Illinois. This season the Central A&M Raiders made their third appearance in the Illinois State High School Football Championship Game and this is also the third time that the Raiders have brought

home the second place trophy. Unfortunately for the Raiders, the third time was not the charm for the State championship. However, I believe that there are no losers in a State championship game, because both of the teams playing are winners already.

Having the opportunity to play in a State championship game in any sport is a great accomplishment that cannot be attained without hard work. I commend the Raiders students, coaches, and fans for their hard work and dedication to the sport of football as well as the loyalty that they have shown for their school.

For the record, I would like to list the names of the players, coaches, managers, cheerleaders, and pom-pom squad members involved in the success of the 1996 Central A&M Raiders Football Team. First, the players: Jim Dial, Ryan Dorsey, Craig Fathauer, Ross Forlines, Joe Gould, Matt Hite, Jim Hunt, Travis Kerby, Drew Moore, Aaron Potsick, Tim Prosser, Trent Rodman, Wes Shanks, Wes Temples, Jeremy Buckles, Jason Churchill, Virgil Coffman, Bob Hogan, B.J. Jordan, Perry Jordan, Mike McLain, Jeremy Medler, Brad Reatherford, Jon Simmons, Richard Stuart, Darin Wall, Derek Wall, Tim Webster, Jeff Carter, Brent Damery, Graham Danyus, Justin Dirks, Jacob Elder, Adam Germscheid, Ross Minott, Josh Monson, Nathan Morrison, Chris Stringer, Andy Tibbs, and Brandon McVey. Coaching the Raiders were Mark Ramsey, Gerald Temples, Brett Hefner, Doug Morrell, Brad Kerby, Mike Lees, and Jerit Medler. Team managers were John Allison and Jesse Adrian. The cheerleaders included Amanda Bilyeu, Bidget Bilyeu, Amber Blades, Jody Burckhardt, Michelle Matlock, Courtney Nicol, Jennifer Ramsey, Abbey Seifert, Amy Seifert, Jenny Vincent, Brianne Wempfen, and Hilary Wooters. Members of the pom-pom squad are Brooke Boitz, Kelly Clutter, Amanda Dorsey, Amanda Flemming, Jennifer Ludlum, Neely Sloan, Ronda Sloan, and Tiffany Wilson.

On behalf of the 19th District of Illinois, I extend my congratulations to the Central A&M Raiders on another successful season. As the words to your fans' favorite cheer says, "We are proud of you."

PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS FOR THE HOMELESS; THE VOTING RIGHTS OF HOMELESS CITIZENS ACT OF 1997

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as the 105th Congress convenes today, I am pleased to reintroduce the Voting Rights of Homeless Citizens Act of 1997. The purpose of this legislation is to enable the homeless, who are citizens of this country, to vote. The bill would remove the legal and administrative barriers that inhibit them from exercising this right. No one should be excluded from registering to vote simply because they do not have a home. But in many States, the homeless are left out and left behind. That is not right. It is not fair. It is not the way of this country.

During this century, we have removed major obstacles that prevented many of our citizens from voting. Not too long ago, people had to