

building located at 290 Broadway in New York, NY, as the Ronald H. Brown Federal Building.

Ronald H. Brown, the first African-American Secretary of Commerce, was an extraordinary statesman whose force, competence and sheer commitment forged new ground for U.S. commerce. The ultimate sacrifice of his life in exceptional service to his country is further testimony to his leadership and passion for economic development and opportunity at home and abroad.

Ronald H. Brown loved this country and represented the best that America has to offer. he was a compassionate advocate for civil rights; a bridge builder mending the divisions of race, religion and cultures; a mentor developing young talent and extending the ladder of opportunity to a new generation of leaders; and, indeed an extraordinary public servant and leader.

His life was one marked by an outstanding record of accomplishment and service to America. He served as Army Captain; Vice President of the National Urban League; Chief Counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee; a distinguished attorney; Chairman of the Democratic National Committee; a trusted advisor to the President of the United States; a husband; a father; and, a friend.

The designation of this building, home to Federal agencies and site of the recently discovered African-American slave burial ground, would honor Ron Brown's service and memory. This designation would serve as an inspiration and reminder to all Americans of Ron Brown's contributions and the noble cause for which he sacrificed his life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX EXEMPTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Tax Exemption Accountability Act to stop self-dealing by the managers of tax exempt organizations and put teeth into the requirement that they file accurate annual returns with the IRS and make them available to the public. It creates a national clearinghouse offering copies of returns for a reasonable fee. The bill also caps the compensation of officers and directors at the level of U.S. cabinet members. Churches would continue to be exempt from filing IRS returns and from caps on pastors' salaries and hospitals could still pay high-cost professionals.

Given the current events, we need greater accountability by tax exempt organizations because they control substantial public wealth and offer temptation that some have been unable to resist manipulating. The share of national revenues going to tax exempts has nearly doubled in the past 15 years, growing to 8 percent per year in constant dollars. The IRS reports that revenues of tax exempts rose from 5.9 percent to 10.4 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product from 1975 to 1990. Those revenues totaled \$578 billion in 1990. This contrasts with taxable revenues from service industries which had receipts of \$1,174 billion. Tax exempts equal more than half of the revenue of all service sector indus-

tries and pay no tax. Clearly the opportunity for abuse is enormous.

The American people are the most generous people in the world. My bill will ensure that this generosity is not abused and profitable business activity is not diverting taxable revenue through manipulating charitable exemptions.

220TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE U.S. CALVARY

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 220th anniversary of the U.S. Calvary, celebrated last December.

On December 16, 1776, in the town of Wethersfield, CT, Revolutionary troops were organized as the 1st Calvary Regiment in the Continental Army under orders of the First Continental Congress. Today, the town of Wethersfield, located in the First Congressional District, is proud to be honored as the birthplace of the U.S. Calvary.

Recognized by the U.S. Army's Center of Military History, Sheldon's Horse, 2d Continental Light Dragoons, were organized in Wethersfield. This was the first dragoon regiment to be organized directly into the Continental Army. Training grounds for this regiment were erected by a Wethersfield resident, Capt. Benjamin Tallmadge. This regiment made several key contributions in the Revolutionary War effort by participating in combat in northern New Jersey and at the defense of Philadelphia.

The U.S. Calvary that had its origins in Wethersfield continued to serve our Nation long after the war ended, fighting epic battles at Brandy Station during the Civil War and the Punitive Expedition before World War I.

The founding of the U.S. Calvary is just one example of the important role that the town of Wethersfield has played in securing and preserving America's independence. From the historic Webb House, where Gen. George Washington met with Comte de Rochambeau to discuss strategies for the Battle of Yorktown, to the modern development of the Silas Deane Highway, the quaintness of Wethersfield is intermingled with the heroic greatness represented by the U.S. Calvary.

The U.S. Calvary, historically headquartered in Fort Riley, KS, will be forever linked with Wethersfield and the First Congressional District. I applaud the efforts of the friends and residents of the town of Wethersfield who have brought this significant part of American history the recognition it greatly deserves.

INTRODUCTION OF CAPITAL GAINS TAX PROPOSAL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Middle Class Income Tax Relief Act of 1997, which provides a capital gains tax cut for working

class Americans. This legislation provides a lifetime capital gains bank of \$200,000. Any taxpayer throughout the person's lifetime would have a capital gains bank of \$200,000. Under this legislation, a taxpayer could exclude up to 50 percent of the gain on the sale of a capital asset, up to the limit in the maximum tax rate of 19.8 percent.

The benefit of lifetime capital gains tax bank would phase out as a taxpayer's income increases above \$200,000. Under this legislation individuals who sold stocks saved for retirement or a second home, or elderly individuals, who have a large gain in the sale of their principal residence, would benefit. The proposal includes a 3-year holding period for the capital asset. Short-term stock speculators would not be able to qualify for the benefit.

In addition, the bill allows taxpayers to index the cost of real estate for inflation. An inflation-induced gain is not a capital gain and should not be subject to tax.

Lately, there has been much said about the necessity and benefits of a capital gain tax cut. A capital gains tax cut is a valid measure, but a capital gains tax needs to be economically feasible and to benefit the middle-class. A capital gains tax cut needs to be responsible. I believe the Middle Income Tax Relief Act of 1997 provides an appropriate capital gains tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, I insert a summary for the RECORD.

SUMMARY OF MIDDLE INCOME TAX RELIEF ACT OF 1997

Individuals would have a lifetime capital gains "bank."

Bank limit would be \$200,000 per person.

All individuals would be entitled to the \$200,000 bank: for example each spouse of a married couple would have a separate limit.

Any individual who sold a qualified asset could exclude up to 50 percent of the gain on the sale, up to the \$200,000 limit.

Qualified assets would include all capital assets under the present law, except collectibles.

Under the bill, the maximum tax rate on capital gains income would be 19.8 percent (i.e. 1/2 of the maximum 39.6 percent rate).

The full benefit would not be available in any year that a taxpayer had adjusted gross income in excess of \$200,000.

In the case of a sale or exchange of real property, taxpayers would be able to index their basis in the asset to the rate of inflation. Thus, no tax on inflation-induced gains.

Example: taxpayer buys a house for \$100,000 and sells it 9 years later for \$200,000. Inflation was 5 percent per year over the 9-year period. Basis for measuring gain is \$145,000 so gain is \$55,000.

A three year holding period would apply so that the deduction would not be available to any taxpayer who held the asset for less than 3 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ALEJANDRO AQUIRRE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to Mr. Alejandro Aguirre, deputy editor and publisher of *Diario Las Americas*, on his being named as chairman of the Metro-Dade Cultural Affairs Council.

In this position he will have the opportunity to expand support for this entire range of south Florida's cultural life. As in so many communities, the council faces the task of providing first rate art and entertainment at prices that allow the broadest range of the community to share in the experience.

In his new role, Mr. Aguirre will have the opportunity to inject into the arts community the same energy and enthusiasm he has brought to Diarrio Las Americas and his other civic involvements. Those other involvements range from the Red Cross and Florida International University to defense of press freedoms as a leader in the Inter American Press Association which represents 1,400 newspapers throughout this hemisphere.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of art and culture to the enjoyment of life. As Cuban poet and patriot, Jose Marti, said, "beauty is a natural right * * * where it appears, light, strength and happiness arise." We are all too aware of the problems that mark urban life. But one of the joys of an area like south Florida is the broad and diverse cultural life that it can support.

Again, congratulations to Mr. Alejandro Aguirre on his new responsibilities and best wishes for a successful and satisfying tenure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREST FOUNDATION CONSERVATION ACT

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced the Forest Foundation Conservation Act.

The Forest Foundation Conservation Act will amend the National Forest Foundation Act to extend and increase the matching funds authorized for the National Forest Foundation and to permit the National Forest Foundation to license the use of trademarks, tradenames, and other such devices to identify that a person is an official sponsor or supporter of the U.S. Forest Service or the National Forest System.

Our Nation has been blessed with a national treasure—America's national forest lands. A growing population, increasing demands on forests and related resources, and more competition for uses and benefits are placing great stress on our forest lands and the U.S. Forest Service.

Now, more than ever, America's forest lands and the individuals who work so diligently to manage these forest lands need support from people who care. The National Forest Foundation, a citizen-directed, nonprofit organization, was created to coordinate the needed support. The Forest Foundation Conservation Act will allow the National Forest Foundation to develop innovative public-private partnerships so that America's pristine forest land and its resources will be conserved for future generations.

I believe that it is the responsibility of each citizen to help conserve our Nation's resources and provide organizations like the National Forest Foundation with the resources it needs to help maintain America's forest lands for generations to come. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legisla-

tion which will help us improve the quality and infrastructure of our National Forests.

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK SPEAKER SHELDON SILVER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today the 105th Congress begins. While there is much talk swirling in the Capitol Hill air about the Speaker, I want to rise and pay tribute to my Speaker, New York Speaker Sheldon Silver.

On Sunday, January 5, 1997, Speaker Silver received a well-deserved award at the silver anniversary of one of New York City's outstanding community groups, the United Jewish Council of the east side. I am proud to represent the diverse and vibrant neighborhood of the lower east side, and prouder still of the magnificent contributions made to the community by the UJC. The UJC currently administers a variety of social services to over 16,000 residents. From senior centers, to housing, to nutrition programs, to immigrant assistance, the UJC's contributions to the quality of life in our city are without limit.

Mr. Speaker, space prohibits me from congratulating the entire leadership of the UJC, but I want to commend Rabbi Yitzchok Singer, Heshy Jacob, David Weinberger, Joel Kaplan, and Judy and Willie Rapfogel for all that they have done for this special neighborhood.

The lower east side simply would not be the same without Sheldon Silver. Born, raised, and educated in the neighborhood, Shelly graduated from Yeshiva University and Brooklyn Law School. In 1976, Shelly began his stellar career in public service when he was elected to the assembly. After serving in the prestigious leadership posts of chairman of the election law and then the ways and means committees, Shelly ascended to the Speakership in 1994, where he now sits as the most influential Democrat in the State of New York.

Sheldon Silver's tenure as Speaker has been marked by extraordinary success. He has made his mark on criminal justice, welfare, and education issues, and has remained a powerful and articulate advocate for New York's working and middle class families.

It has been an extraordinary honor for me to serve side by side with Speaker Silver, representing the lower east side community. Shelly is a man of principle and honor. His ethical and moral world view is shaped by his deep religious convictions, but he is also a friend to New Yorkers of every race, religion, and ethnic background. If I could borrow one word from Shelly's own Yiddish vocabulary, I would have to summarize his many attributes by calling him a "mensh."

Mr. Speaker, as Congress begins a new session, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to one of our Nation's outstanding public officials, my Speaker, the Honorable Sheldon Silver.

CAMPAIGN AND LOBBYING REFORMS IN FIRST 100 DAYS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we must dedicate our efforts within the first 100 days of the 105th Congress to passing comprehensive campaign finance and foreign lobbying reform legislation.

The events of the last election, with the worsening situation of foreign influence and the continuing flood of campaign contributions and expenditures, compel us to act. Now is the time.

Just as in past Congresses, I am once again introducing legislation calling for a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress and the States to set reasonable expenditure limits for elections to Federal and State office. It is simply wrong to equate campaign money with free speech. The only way to limit the exorbitant levels of money being spent on campaigns is through a constitutional amendment.

In addition, I'm proposing once again legislation to stop foreign contributions and influence, as was witnessed in the closing weeks of the elections. My bill creates a clearinghouse of political activities information within the F.E.C.

Finally, we must end the revolving door between Government service and lobbying for foreign interests. My "Foreign Agents Compulsory Ethics in Trade Act" measure will impose a lifetime ban on high-level Government officials from representing, aiding or advising foreign governments and foreign political parties. The act also imposes a 5-year prohibition on representing, aiding or advising foreign interests—including commercial interests—before the Government of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we should make it our goal to adopt these reforms within the first 100 days of the 105th Congress.

THE MANAGED CARE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, along with Mr. JOHN LEWIS, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. FILNER, I am pleased to introduce "The Managed Care Consumer Protection Act of 1997," a bill that will provide critically needed consumer protections to millions of Americans in managed care health plans.

Health care consumers who entrust their lives to managed care plans have consistently found that many plans are more interested in profits than in providing appropriate care. In the process of containing costs patients are often harmed. My constituent mail has been full of horror stories explaining the abuses that occur at the hands of HMOs and other forms of managed care.

For example, David Ching of Fremont, California had a positive experience in a Kaiser Permanente plan and then joined an employer sponsored HMO expecting similar service. He