

TAX CREDIT FOR HISTORIC HOME REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I join Representatives SHAW and KENNELLY in cosponsoring legislation that would provide a tax credit for the rehabilitation of a historic home. This legislation would help those who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated home and occupy it as a principle residence.

This tax credit would provide an incentive for the revitalization of many neighborhoods by promoting economic stability and home ownership. I represent the city of Springfield which has many older communities which would benefit greatly from this bill. The city of Springfield and its surrounding communities have many beautiful older historic homes and this tax credit provides a great opportunity for individuals to restore and live in these houses.

The credit is capped at \$50,000 and it would be for 20 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenditures. The credit is not based on the individual's income. However, the property must be used as a taxpayer's principle residence.

Single-family and multifamily homes would qualify for the credit. A developer may rehabilitate a qualifying property for sale and pass the credit through to the home buyer. Properties eligible for the credit are those listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places or on a State or local register, as well as contributing buildings in national, State, and local historic districts.

This tax credit is essential for revitalizing historic districts of our older cities. We have many beautiful homes and neighborhoods in our older cities and we should do everything possible to preserve their unique beauty. This tax credit helps preserve our history. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

JAMES F. COSGROVE, VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY CONTEST WINNER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call the attention of the House to the work of James F. Cosgrove of Wilmington, DE. James is Delaware's State winner of the Veterans of Foreign War's Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest and has received a \$1,500 Edward A. Nardi Scholarship award. I congratulate James, his family, and VFW Post 3257 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Wilmington, DE for sponsoring this excellent program.

As my colleagues know, the VFW has sponsored the Voice of Democracy Competition for 50 years to promote patriotic and civic responsibility among our young people and to help them attend college through the scholarship awards. The competition requires students to write and record a 3- to 5-minute essay on a patriotic theme. This year, over 109,000 students participated in the contest on the theme:

"Democracy—Above and Beyond." I am very proud to share with the House James' excellent essay on the need for young people to become actively involved in making our country a better place to live.

Again, congratulations to James, the Cosgrove family, and the members of VFW Post 3257 and their ladies Auxiliary for their fine work.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(By Delaware winner James Cosgrove)

The phone rang. The caller quickly told me to turn on CNN. Although confused, I turned on the television. I was soon shocked to hear what Wolf Blitzer had to report. The United States of America, under the direction of President Bush, had attacked the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

As the initial shock subsided, a dread thought invaded my mind. Would my father be sent to fight as well? At that time my father was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. If the fighting continued, he too would be among the masses of Marines being deployed from the base.

The war raged on and the weeks passed. An air of tension enveloped our household since that first day in January when the telephone rang. We were anxious about what was to become of our father. As the war continued, I became increasingly frustrated with my government. They were endangering the life of my father on behalf of Kuwait, a country that I had not heard of in the six years I had been attending elementary school. For me, each day of stressful waiting increased my level of disenchantment.

A few months later, the phone rang a second time. It was my father's commanding officer, informing my dad that he was scheduled to join the next shipment of Marines as a member of the medical corps. The will was written. The bags were packed. The family was morbid. At first I wanted to cry as my mother so often did. I decided instead to follow the example of my father's serene confidence and sense of duty. His air of determination comforted me and gave me hope that he would emerge from the Gulf unscathed. It was then that I realized what sets our nation apart from all other nations.

The American people are what establishes our system of government above and beyond all other forms of government. People who vote. People who own their own businesses. People who feel such a strong devotion to their country that they would be willing to lay down their lives for it. People like my father. The system of democracy places the power to pass laws, support the economy, and protect the country in the hands of the people. This trust, an essential element of democracy, is what truly makes our government excel. Everyone can flourish in an environment where they receive the respect, trust and power necessary to make their government "by the people and for the people." Such is the case of the United States of America!

Thankfully my father was not deployed overseas. Instead, he was assigned to a state-side medical facility. As a sixth grader, I was not conscious of the fact that the democracy in which I lived was the model government. I was not able to comprehend that the freedom and individual rights that I experienced were not present in other countries. Greed and corruption may infest other governments but for 220 years have not been able to control democratic America. Americans should feel pride in being the key ingredient in a recipe that has produced the greatest nation in the world! A nation governed by a

philosophy that is above and beyond that of all other nations.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF HICKMAN COUNTY LADY 'DAWGS 1996-97 CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 1997 Double AA State Champions for Tennessee girls high school basketball. The Hickman County Lady Bulldogs finished their season with a record of 32-4, an impressive mark by any standard.

The achievement of any team rests in the genius of those who guide its players and point them down the pathway of success. Coach Barry Wortman, assistant coaches Misty Shelton and Aaron Taylor, team manager Rocky Stinson, and team trainers Mark Buck and Brian Johnson, are to be commended for their hard work and love of the game of basketball, as well as for their devotion to the girls who brought them and all of Hickman County this distinctive honor.

Among other accomplished athletes, this year's Lady 'Dawgs team included All-State players Becky Myatt and Talisha Scates. In fact Becky Myatt's athleticism and mastery of the game of basketball landed her with perhaps the most prestigious award any high school player can earn, Athlete of the Year. In addition to the achievement of Myatt and Scates, Jennifer Dick and Emily Vincent earned All-Tournament honors. And Amanda Judd was an All-State Tournament Award winner as well.

Rounding out the roster of this middle Tennessee girls high school basketball powerhouse were Eugenia McClain, Cassidy Jenkins, Brandi Jimerson, Heidi McDonald, Jenny Powers, Racheal Buchanan, and Brandy Martin. Without these players, the Lady 'Dawgs surely would not have been quite the exceptional team they went on to be.

As Hickman County's representative in Congress, I am proud to see its residents and communities enjoy this well deserved recognition. The 1996-97 Lady 'Dawgs have left a legacy which will be remembered next year and many years to come in Hickman County and throughout Tennessee. To the future Lady 'Dawgs teams, I wish you well in your endeavors to carry forward with the championship and winning traditions of Hickman County High School. Congratulations.

HONORING LARRY WENNLUND

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of a great statesman, Representative Larry Wennlund, after 11 years of public service to the people of Illinois and the residents of the 38th District.

Representative Wennlund has been a lifelong resident of New Lenox, IL, and received a bachelor of arts from the University of Illinois

at Champaign, and a juris doctor from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, IL.

Representative Wennlund has been an active member and leader of his community as a member of: Trinity Lutheran Church, the New Lenox Lions Club, the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the New Lenox Grade School Board of Education.

Representative Wennlund remains a leader in his growing community as an advocate for building a strong transportation network, economic development for the area, reforming the Juvenile Justice system, welfare-to-work initiatives and real property tax reform.

Representative Larry Wennlund has also been honored for his talents and accomplishments by being selected from among his peers to serve as a member of the Republican Leadership Team. Representative Larry Wennlund is an honorable man, worthy of praise for his many years of service, leadership and accomplishments for the people of his district.

FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY FOR THE CNMI

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, last week, joined by my colleague and friend PHIL CRANE, the chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, I had the pleasure of meeting Gov. Froilan Tenorio of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands [CNMI]. Governor Tenorio has embarked on a bold course to promote economic and political liberty in the CNMI. The brave men and women who died for freedom at the battle of Saipan would be proud to know that Governor Tenorio has been a true champion of freedom in the Western Pacific.

Governor Tenorio recognizes that the market, and not the government, is the engine of job creation. Governor Tenorio has pushed forward with a program of privatization, fiscal restraint, and lower taxes for his people. Governor Tenorio did not come to Washington looking for taxpayer benefits, welfare, or handouts. He came to promote his market reforms. Mr. Speaker, Governor Tenorio deserves our support.

During his administration, Governor Tenorio has actively pursued and courted businesses around the globe to open shop in the CNMI. Like President Reagan in the 1980's, Tenorio has kept taxes low. Low tax rates have actually increased productivity, which in turn, increased revenue for the government of the CNMI. Additionally, the Governor has recognized the importance of trade and has demonstrated how trade with Asian markets can bring prosperity.

The economic changes that have taken place in the CNMI have been nothing short of miraculous. In 1970 most roads were unpaved and most homes lacked running water. There were 55 licensed businesses on the islands, with combined assets of \$2 million. There was one bank and one credit union. Then the island tried free markets.

CNMI dropped laws common elsewhere in Micronesia that restricted foreign investment. It reduced the regulatory burden on business. The island also reformed its punitive tax sys-

tem. The result has been economic growth. As Peter Ferrara of Americans for Tax Reform said, "Once a dismal outpost of failed state socialism, the islands have now been thoroughly integrated in the dynamic economy of the Pacific Rim."

The number of businesses on the islands has grown from 55 to 5,000. Gross business revenue rose from \$244.4 million in 1986 to \$1.477 billion in 1994. Only 1,056 people were employed in 1970, most by the government. Twenty years later, 25,965 people were working, 22,795 of them for the private sector. Unemployment has fallen from 15 percent to 4 percent since 1980.

The pro-growth economic policies of the CNMI have been in stark contrast to the experiences of other American territories in the Pacific, such as Guam and American Samoa. The unemployment rate in Samoa is close to 16 percent. The government is the most important provider of jobs in the American Samoa and, as of 1989, nearly 60 percent of the residents had incomes below the poverty lines. In Guam, where the local economy has benefited from United States military presence on the island, but the unemployment rate remains higher than in the CNMI.

The Governor's efforts have not come without criticism by some who believe that Washington knows better how to create jobs for the people of the islands than the people of the CNMI themselves. Rep. GEORGE MILLER of California believes that Washington should impose the Federal minimum wage on the people of the CNMI. Make no mistake about it, passage of that bill would kill jobs, growth, and opportunity.

Most Members of Congress recognize that a higher minimum wage would result in a withdrawal of industry from the islands and widespread unemployment. Factories would move from the CNMI to other Pacific outposts that were not burdened by Washington wage controls.

Instead of trying to impose redtape and mandates on the people of the CNMI, we should look to the CNMI as a model of reform. Like the CNMI, Washington should provide tax relief for the American people. We should recognize that pro-business policies create jobs. And we should recognize that free trade creates prosperity. The CNMI is proof positive that these policies work.

While we shouldn't impose Washington mandates on the CNMI, we should also allow the people of the island more control over their own lands. Governor Tenorio described to Mr. CRANE and me the trouble the people of Tinian are having with unreasonable Federal control of their land. Governor Tenorio asked us to look into assisting the people of Tinian with opening up more of their land for development and use in accordance with their cultural and economic interests. Congressman CRANE and I hope to become active in bringing a positive resolution to this matter and other areas where we can help the people of the CNMI.

The CNMI is on the right track. Their Pacific neighbors should view the economic policies on the CNMI as a model. Washington should also acknowledge that Governor Tenorio's policies are on the right track. Let's not nip job creation and economic reform in the bud with ill-conceived Washington knows best legislation. It's time that we recognize and respect the impressive progress that this group of

American citizens halfway around the world has achieved.

FREE SPEECH ON THE INTERNET

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the efforts of citizens everywhere to protect free speech on the Internet.

Today, the Supreme Court heard arguments to determine the constitutionality of the Communications Decency Act [CDA], which criminalizes certain speech on the Internet.

It is because of the hard work and dedication to free speech by netizens everywhere that this issue has gained the attention of the public, and now, our Nation's highest court.

I have maintained from the very beginning that the CDA is unconstitutional, and I eagerly await the Supreme Court's decision on this case.

I was one of the few Members of this body to vote against the Telecommunications Act, in large part, due to the CDA provision that imposes unacceptable limits on free speech.

While the stated intent of this provision is to limit minors' access to indecent material, in fact, its effect will be much farther reaching. This so-called decency language will dangerously constrain electronic free speech. I still believe that it is the cyberspace equivalent to book burning.

When this bill first became law, I turned my web page black to protest this dangerous assault on free speech. I have been working actively to overturn the CDA ever since. I received thousands of e-mail messages from around the world from people concerned with the threat to free speech imposed by the CDA. I pledged to join with concerned citizens all across the country to fight the CDA in Congress, in the courts, and in the chat rooms and online forums of the Internet itself. And we have. We won in Philadelphia, we won in New York, and we are now poised to win in the Supreme Court of the United States. We promised not to give up the fight, and to continue our efforts to keep the Internet free, and we have done just that.

Now this case is finally before the Supreme Court. Soon we will learn of the outcome of our efforts. Have we successfully challenged this unjust act? Will the Supreme Court uphold the lower court's ruling which struck down the CDA? Will the Justices join the choir of voices who have declared this bill an indecent assault on American liberty? I believe they will.

I believe they will recognize what the lower courts have already determined, that "as the most participatory form of mass speech yet developed, the Internet deserves the highest protection from governmental intrusion," that the CDA is unconstitutional, and that it dangerously constrains electronic free speech.

I applaud everyone who has taken action to support the first amendment, and who has spoken out against this bill to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy the same rights and liberties on the Internet that we have enjoyed in other arenas of expression for the past two centuries.