

attached to a sink. In order to use it, the employee must be able to stand on two feet and bend over to the sink. It cannot be moved, and cannot be brought to an immobilized, prone victim. I think that most people would agree that this type of fountain is far less useful than a portable eyewash bottle with a buffer solution. However, OSHA felt otherwise. They seem to believe that strict adherence to some arcane regulation, regardless of its cost or practicality, is more important than the goal of protecting people's eyes, something that my constituent was obviously trying to do.

This is just one of countless examples that I could cite that represent the absurdity of our regulatory system. I chair the Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction Subcommittee of the House Small Business Committee. Last week, we held a joint hearing that looked at the use of sound science in Federal agency rulemaking. We heard testimony from distinguished scholars who indicated that Federal agencies often initiate the development of new regulations without a solid foundation of scientific evidence to support their decisions. When this occurs, the small business owners of America are left holding the bag.

The next logical question is: What can be done about this? To its credit, Congress has already done something. Last year, the Congress passed the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, better known as SBREFA. This was truly landmark legislation that should help improve the regulatory process. Contained within this legislation is an often overlooked authority that allows Congress to disapprove new regulations before they take effect. This process, commonly referred to as the Congressional Review Act, gives the legislative branch a direct role in the regulatory formation process. While on its own it may not mean foolish regulations like the one my constituent has to deal with will no longer exist. However, it does mean that Congress can at least attempt to prevent new regulations of questionable substance from taking effect in the future.

The problem, however, is that Congress has not exercised its new authority under the Congressional Review Act. Since this authority became effective on March 29, 1996, roughly 3,600 new regulations have gone into effect, including 61 major rules. However, only a handful of resolutions of disapproval have been introduced, and the House of Representatives has yet to even consider one such resolution.

Why has Congress been so reluctant to use this authority? It is my opinion that Congress has been slow to take advantage of the Congressional Review Act because it lacks accurate and reliable data with which it can challenge the information of the promulgating agency. In many cases, new rules are highly complex and technical in nature. Members have neither the time nor the expertise to assess the information that the agency is using to base its regulatory decisions upon. Until Congress has access to reliable nonpartisan information, it is my belief that the Congressional Review Act will remain a paper tiger, with no real effect on improving the quality and number of regulations that are implemented.

To help in this process, I am developing legislation that should provide Members of Congress with timely and useful information with which they can assess the actions taken by

the promulgating agency. All too often a regulatory agency either ignores or half-heartedly meets the regulatory analyses that it is mandated by statute to conduct. This must stop. With accurate and reliable information, Members will have a credible, factual basis on which to judge whether a specific regulation is needed or is consistent with congressional intent.

We all agree and support having a clean environment and safe workplaces, and I want to be clear that I fully support the need for strong safeguards for our environment and the American worker. However, we must ensure that the ways in which we achieve these goals are based on sound science and take into account the legitimate concerns of the small businesses that will be regulated. It is my sincere hope that Congress can in fact become more active under the Congressional Review Act, and put an end to some of the irrational regulations that Federal agencies continue to develop.

TRIBUTE TO REV. MILTON BRUNSON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to comment on the life and legacy of a great musician, tremendous clergyman, dedicated community leader, and a wonderful American, the late Reverend Milton Brunson, who passed away on Tuesday, April 1, 1997. I share the words of his wife Joanne that "Reverend Brunson touched so many people's lives its hard to imagine".

On April 25, 1997, Reverend Brunson would have celebrated the 49th anniversary of the Thompson Community Singers, which he helped to found in 1948. At the age of 18, while a senior at McKinley High School and director of the Gospel Chorus at St. Stephens A.M.E. Church, Reverend Brunson teamed up with Dorothy Mercer Chandler to found the Thompson Community Singers. Ms. Chandler, a gifted organist in her own right, worked closely with Reverend Brunson to keep the group together for 49 years, performing across the United States and throughout the world. The Thompson Singers performed at the Chicago Gospel Festival, the Apollo Theater, Madison Square Garden in New York, and on stages in England, Italy, and other foreign countries.

On several occasions, the Thompson Singers produced the No. 1 religious recording, and, in fact, won a Grammy Award. Under the leadership of Reverend Brunson, nearly 1,000 individuals were members of the Thompson Singers; also known as the Tommies. Jesse Dixon Mays, Ricky Dillard, Deloris Stamps, Ethel Holloway, and Angela Spivey, were just a few of the famous vocalists who performed with the Tommies.

In 1992, the Thompson Community Singers, directed by Tyrone Black received the Stellar Awards for Choir of the Year, Song of the Year for "My Mind's Made Up", and writer of the year, Darius Brooks. In 1995, Reverend Brunson and the Tommies won a Grammy Award for the recording "Through God's Eyes."

After several years of singing and choir directing, Reverend Brunson accepted a call to the ministry and built up the Christ Tabernacle Baptist Church located at 854 North Central Street in Chicago, IL. Under the direction of Reverend Brunson, Christ Tabernacle went from its humble beginnings to a major religious institution, with over 2,000 actively participating members.

Rev. Milton Brunson will always be remembered as a legend and a legacy. We thank him for his contributions and we wish the best for his wife Jo Ann, daughters, Donna Louise, Sanita Monique, son Kevin, and sisters, brother, and grandchildren. A talented individual, a dedicated and inspiring leader, a wise teacher, and a great American was the Reverend Milton Brunson.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TONY ZALE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable man, Mr. Tony Zale. Tony passed away on March 20, 1997, in Portage, IN, at the age of 83. He was a man well known for his accomplishments as a champion boxer, contributions to his community, and devotion to his friends and family.

Tony was a champion boxer, fittingly remembered as "the Man of Steel" for both his steel-like ability to withstand and deliver powerful blows in the boxing ring, and his association with a city priding itself on its massive steel production. A native of Gary, IN, Tony began his successful boxing career in 1934 upon leaving his job as a steelworker at age 21. After experiencing a string of losses early in his career, Tony Zale first displayed his extraordinary desire to achieve when he returned to steel work at U.S. Steel in 1935. Willingly accepting the most physically challenging jobs in the mill, Tony returned to boxing in 1937 with a renewed confidence and a physique so muscular it was renowned to be "metallic." Shortly thereafter, Mr. Zale's ambition of becoming a champion boxer was fulfilled when he defeated the National Boxing Association champion in July 1940. In 1941, Tony earned universal recognition as a world titleholder as he defeated World Middleweight Champion, Georgie Abrams. When returning from his service with the U.S. Navy in 1945, Tony faced his most dangerous challenger, Rocky Graziano, for what would be the first of three brutal matches. Winning the first match, losing the second, and then regaining his title in the third, Tony Zale forever marked his place in history as a champion boxer during the epic Zale-Graziano fights. When Tony retired from boxing in 1948, he left the profession with the accomplishment of fighting and beating every contender in the middleweight division during his championship reign from 1941 through 1948. During the 1950's Tony Zale was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

Tony put forth the same effort and dedication bettering the community in which he lived as he did during his boxing career. After retiring from boxing, Tony coached at the Chicago Park District youth boxing program, where he taught children the fundamentals of boxing, as

well as the fundamentals of living a good, clean life. Tony was a man devoted to teaching children the importance of education, and a coach remembered for his willingness to offer guidance both inside and outside of the ring. Other community service initiatives in which he participated include serving as a Catholic Youth Organization boxing coach, promoting youth boxing tournaments, and visiting with polio patients. Tony Zale was honored for his efforts in October 1990, when President George Bush presented him with the Presidential Citizen's Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Tony Zale. His children, Mary Medeiros and Theresa Gassis, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews, can all be proud of his professional accomplishments, as well as his commitment to improving the quality of life for the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District. Tony Zale will always be remembered as a true leader and will remain a role model for generations to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAMP PENDLETON

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize Gen. Claude Reinke and the men and women of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in my district in Oceanside, CA, for their dedicated effort towards environmental conservation.

I have admired General Reinke and his leadership ability and enjoyed the close working relationship we have shared for many years.

Today, Camp Pendleton is being honored by the Department of Defense as the 1996 Environmental Security Award winner in the natural resources conservation category. This award recognizes Camp Pendleton for its "outstanding accomplishments in the conservation of natural resources * * * and ensuring their continued availability for future generations.

Camp Pendleton, the largest military facility land wise was praised for the advancement in the ecosystem management of the 119,000 acres that encompasses the base. Among other aspects, Camp Pendleton's officials were especially noted for an enhancement program of two near extinct species present on the base.

It is my pleasure to also recognize Susan Gibson, an environmental program manager at Camp Pendleton, who is being individually recognized for her role in initiating "significant progress in avoiding and controlling air, water, land and noise pollution."

Mr. Speaker, as one of only six installations to ever win this award twice, I believe Camp Pendleton's men and women are to be commended for their effort and hard work toward environmental safety concerns and congratulated for winning this award.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA L. CROUSHORE, ED.D., CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MON VALLEY EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

HON. MIKE DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Linda Croushore and to recognize her years of outstanding leadership at the Mon Valley Education Consortium. Dr. Croushore's vision of public education has been the source of positive change for the students and communities of the Mon Valley.

Under the direction of Dr. Croushore, the Mon Valley Education Consortium has more than lived up to its name by launching innovative projects that engage our children in the learning process while building partnerships among the 20 school districts they serve and the surrounding region. Clearly, Dr. Croushore's belief that every community has the capacity to respond through collaborative action has been proven to be true as evidenced through the countless number of success stories the consortium has helped to write over the past 10 years.

Since its inception in 1987, the Mon Valley Education Consortium has grown considerably, but its core commitment to providing every child with a quality education through the leadership, and support of many, has steadfastly remained. While not always an easy task, creating consensus from within has been a hallmark of Dr. Croushore's guidance. More than words can convey, Dr. Croushore's actions illustrate that improving our public schools is not an option, but a necessity.

I am pleased to consider Linda a friend, and know that I am not alone in having an enormous amount of respect for her. Congratulations and thank you for your significant achievements on behalf of quality public education, and most of all for your indefatigable spirit.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A PERMANENT EXTENSION OF THE TRANSITION RULE FOR CERTAIN PUBLICLY TRADED PARTNERSHIPS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my colleagues, including Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. CRANE, Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. HERGER, in introducing legislation to permanently extend the 10-year grandfather for publicly traded partnerships [PTP's]. This legislation applies to those PTP's that were in existence at the time the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 was passed.

Publicly traded partnerships were first created in the early 1980's for the purpose of combining the traditional limited partnership form with the ability to still have the partnership units freely traded on an established securities market or are readily tradable on a secondary market.

Section 7704, which was enacted as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, provides that certain publicly traded partnerships shall be taxed as corporations. However, the 1987 act completely exempted certain types of PTP's from the reach of section 7704. To be an exempt PTP, 90 percent or more of the partnerships gross income must be qualifying income. In other words, income derived from resources such as timber, oil and gas, minerals and real estate. Further, an exempt PTP need not have been in existence in 1987 when section 7704 was enacted. In addition, other PTP's in existence when section 7704 was enacted were grandfathered, but only for 10 years, through 1997. Our bill would extend this grandfather provision permanently.

I can foresee that some people might view this proposal as special interest legislation. I strongly disagree. Had we chosen in 1987 to provide a permanent grandfather for existing PTP's, no one would have batted an eye. Instead, a permanent grandfather in 1987 would have been an appropriate decision for Congress to make based on the extent to which PTP's relied on the law that was in effect when they were created. The fact that the decision was initially made in 1987 should not stop us from revisiting the issue so long as the original decision has not yet taken effect.

We in Congress are called on to make decisions about appropriate transition relief in virtually every tax bill. Indeed, these types of decisions are ones that are particularly suited for the Members of Congress to make, since they generally involve the balancing of competing interests rather than technicalities of tax law.

Our proposal is different only because it is separate in time from the 1987 act. On the other hand, the proposal is generic in scope, applying to any PTP fitting the criteria. We believe that it is fair, before the 10-year grandfather expires, to determine whether the previous decision was proper or whether a permanent rule is a better choice.

Generally, Congress does not place time limits on grandfather provisions, other than what might be called project-specific provisions. The reasoning behind this policy is that if taxpayers were justified in relying on the law in effect at the time the taxpayer took action, then the taxpayers deserve relief from the change in the law, not just for a limited period but as long as the taxpayer's circumstances do not change.

REASONS FOR A PERMANENT GRANDFATHER

Some may wonder why these PTP's should be permanently grandfathered. After all, if they were taking advantage of so large a loophole that Congress had to shut it down, why should they benefit merely because they got in under the wire?

The truth is that these PTP's did not take advantage of an egregious loophole. PTP's are structured no differently from other types of limited partnerships. They merely combined that basic limited partnership structure with the ability for the units to be readily traded. The problem was thus not a loophole in the Tax Code that needed to be closed retroactively.

These PTP's relied on the law in effect before passage of the 1987 act, and that reliance was completely reasonable. The first proposal directed toward PTP's surfaced in 1984, but President Reagan chose not to forward it to Congress in his tax reform recommendations and we did not independently