

and other colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee from both sides of the aisle in introducing legislation to extend structured settlement rules under section 130 of the Internal Revenue Code to workers' compensation.

I am a strong supporter of structured settlements. I have seen firsthand in Minnesota how structured settlements can help victims of severe physical injuries put their lives back together in the wake of a disabling injury, help support their families, and instill some hope for the future.

Structured settlements give crucial financial security to victims and their families by providing an assured stream of payments into the future to cover medical expenses and basic living needs. Structured settlements also save taxpayer dollars by ensuring that injury victims will not be required to seek indigent care.

For all these reasons, Congress has sought to promote the use of structured settlements through specific tax rules that have been enacted in the Internal Revenue Code. Extending the Code section 130 structured settlement rules beyond physical injuries caused by torts to include physical injuries under workers' compensation would provide the same financial protection to victims who have suffered serious, long-term physical injuries in the workplace.

I understand the Treasury Department testified before Ways and Means in the last Congress that it does not oppose this proposal and sees no distinction for purposes of the structured settlement tax rules between physical injuries suffered from torts and physical injuries suffered in the workplace. I also understand the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated in the last Congress that the proposal would produce only a very minimal revenue loss.

I join with my colleagues in urging prompt enactment of this legislation.

HONORING BETSY BEAMF AND EMILY DUTTON

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Betsy Beamf, of Princeton, IL, and Emily Dutton, of Lewiston, IL. This weekend they will receive the Girl Scouts Gold Award from the Kickapoo Council of Girl Scouts, and I congratulate them on this occasion.

The Girl Scouts Gold Award represents the highest honor in Girl Scouting and recognizes significant achievement in leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. While Girl Scouting has provided these young adults a supportive setting in which to learn from and work with their peers in a group, Emily and Betsy have earned this award through their own individual commitment of over 50 hours of exceptional service.

Through her performance of plays for local youth, Betsy has fostered a greater appreciation for the world of theater and drama among the children in her community. Emily drew upon her artistic talents to design and create a mural in her school that promotes good sportsmanship. At a time when Americans nationwide have placed a renewed emphasis on community service as a way of improving our

society, Emily and Betsy exemplify the kind of dedication and commitment we need from people of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, we as a nation are enriched by the efforts of Betsy and Emily, and the thousands of children like them who give of themselves to benefit their communities each day. I hope that they are proud of themselves, and I am sure that their families take great pride in them. I encourage them to continue to take an active role in the community and wish them every success in the future.

CONGRATULATING HOLLIS CURL

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 1, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to one of the finest and most honorable journalists that I have ever had the pleasure to know, M. Hollis Curl of Camden, AL. Mr. Curl has just received the State of Alabama's highest journalism award, the Hector Award.

The Hector Award was given to Mr. Curl for the "Most Outstanding Performance by an Alabamian in Journalism." Mr. Curl is the publisher and editor of the Wilcox Progressive Era, located in Wilcox County, AL. This is not Mr. Curl's first taste of victory. This is the second time he has received this award and he is the only person ever to win it twice.

I am proud to say that I am a friend of Mr. Curl. I am no stranger of his love for journalism, and his quest to improve the community in which he lives. At a time when the President is calling on the Nation to become more active in voluntarism, Mr. Curl has already been a major community volunteer for over 30 years. He serves on the board of his country's hospital; president of the Gas Board for 15 years; led the effort to get his county a 911 emergency line; serves as the Charter Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and much, much more.

Above all, due to Mr. Curl's proactive journalism, we were able to work together to restore the ferry-boat service across the Alabama river which was disrupted by the KKK in the 1960's. Because of his due diligence, this too, will soon become reality.

Mr. Speaker. When it comes to talking about Mr. Hollis Curl, words fail me. Obviously, words never fail Hollis, and his second Hector Award says it all. Way to go, Hollis Curl.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's first call to prayer came in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the Colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation. Since then, the call to prayer has continued throughout our history. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, National Day of Prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by Presi-

dent Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May.

Today is the National Day of Prayer.

We are celebrating in the Cannon caucus room all day—from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Military Chiefs of Staff, Cabinet Secretaries, Senators, and Representatives are gathering to ask for prayers from the people. You see, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans of all faiths. It stands as a call to us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

Please join me today by stopping by the Cannon caucus room to celebrate this great event. It is our prayer that during this National Day of Prayer, America will again remember the trust that made this Nation great.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today because I believe that one of the greatest challenges that faces our Nation today is the education of our children and grandchildren. Recently, a fifth grade student wrote to me commenting that "people are taking our parents for granted, because they're paying taxes which they assume are to schools, but most of the money doesn't make it to the classroom where it should be." I agree with this student.

Currently, we are failing the school children of America. We are failing their parents as we allow their hard-earned education tax dollars to be funneled through layers of bureaucracy. The problem with our education system today is not how much money we spend, but how we choose to spend it.

While it is unknown exactly what percentage of Federal education dollars reaches the classroom, a recent audit of New York City public schools found that only 43 percent of their local education budget reaches the classroom. Another study found that only 85 percent of funds administered by the U.S. Department of Education for elementary and secondary education reach the school district level. Even if 65 percent of Federal education funds presently reach the classroom, it still means that billions of dollars are not directly spent on children in the classroom.

For these reasons, today I am introducing the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. My Dollars to the Classroom resolution expresses the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that Department of Education, State education departments, and local education agencies should spend more Federal education tax dollars for our Nation's children—in their classrooms.

For far too long, Americans' hard-earned tax dollars have gone to Federal bureaucrats and have churned through a Washington labyrinth—instead of rightfully being placed in the hands of someone who knows your child's name.

Of the \$15.4 billion which goes to elementary and secondary programs in the Federal Department of Education, the classroom may be lucky to see 65 percent of that. That means over \$5.4 billion is lost in the abyss of

Department studies, publications, and grant administration.

I believe Americans would rather see their dollars at work—providing more teachers and teacher aides, purchasing updated software and state-of-the-art microscopes, and even seeing that every American classroom is connected to the Internet and brought into our new Information Age.

The classroom is where the action is. The classroom is where knowledge grows and the learning takes place. Not in some stuffy Washington office—where miles upon miles of paperwork and publications are produced—and even teachers must pay if they want to benefit.

The Dollars to the Classroom resolution calls on the Department of Education to see that 90 percent of Department of Education elementary and secondary education funds get into the classrooms of this Nation—directly.

If this actually happened roughly \$1,800 would be added to each classroom budget across the United States. Even President Clinton has said, "We cannot ask the American people to spend more on education until we do a better job with the money we've got now." As he and Vice President GORE have said, the reinventing of public education begins not in the halls or offices of Washington, but in communities across the country. We must ask the fundamental questions about how dollars which are to go to the public school systems are spent.

Education dollars in the classroom can make a tremendous difference and can enhance a child's learning experience. I would like to share some comments from school children about the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. They have said that, "I support this bill because . . .

Our books are falling apart, so it is kind of hard to learn with them.

My Social Studies book was new in 1988. Hey, it's 1997, we need to get new books!

I think more of the taxes for education should go to the schools. We really need more money in our classroom because our teacher always has to buy things for our classroom with her own money.

We need to get more teachers so the children can get more education.

We need more money in the schools for things such as books, paper, posters and items (our teacher) needs to teach.

Many chairs are wobbly, the books are torn, in the winter, the classrooms are practically freezing. All of this makes it very difficult to learn. This bill will hopefully improve our learning.

I hope this bill is supported and becomes official. The classrooms in the U.S. need more things and equipment to help the kids.

Yes, let's help the kids. We have a moral responsibility to drastically improve our current education system for our children.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our Nation's kids—I call upon all of us to choose to put children first. I urge Members of the House to support the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. I thank the Speaker, and look forward to working with him during the 105th Congress on this important issue.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Fresno Chapter of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. The American Institute of Parliamentarians has requested that California Governor Pete Wilson declare the month of April, "Parliamentary Emphasis Month."

Parliamentary procedure provides an accurate, impartial and timely means of arriving at the opinion of those present. The mission statement of the American Institute of Parliamentarians is: to foster, promote, and teach the highest standards of parliamentary procedure in keeping with both the principles of parliamentary law and the adopted parliamentary authority, and in accordance with the accepted system of rules for conducting business in an organizational body.

Among others, America was founded upon the principles of individuals rights, majority rule, and the promotion of a deliberative process for governing and decisionmaking procedures. Our third President, Thomas Jefferson, wrote the first manual on parliamentary practice in this country. Published in 1801, that manual has left an indelible mark on our history. The Rules of Order are an integral part of any properly functioning organization. Whether in the private sector, or at every level of government, the Rules of Order is a guide that continues to be utilized on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the American Institute of Parliamentarians for their adherence to and respect for parliamentary law. I congratulate the American Institute of Parliamentarians as they celebrate Parliamentary Emphasis Month, and ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Fresno Chapter president James

Wilburn, committee co-chair's Paula Garner and Barbara Barstow, and the entire Fresno chapter, as they observe this milestone in their organization. I wish them continued success in this worthy endeavor.

CITIZENSHIP USA

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] has tested me time and again. Today, my patience has run out. My district in southern California has one of the largest concentrations of illegal aliens. INS claims to be working to remedy this problem. They are failing miserably.

This morning, I learned that the Citizenship USA Program, which is run by the INS, has failed to properly screen nearly 180,000 aliens. These aliens were hastily naturalized without adequate background checks. Many more submitted the fingerprints of another person to avoid triggering a hit by the FBI. How many criminals has the INS allowed to become a U.S. citizen? How many criminal aliens are lurking in our neighborhoods and preying on our children?

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I helped introduce legislation drafted by my colleague, ELTON GALLEGLY. This bill would expand a pilot program currently operating in Anaheim and Ventura Counties, CA, which requires 24-hour presence of INS agents at local jails in 100 counties with the highest concentration of illegal aliens.

Currently, our local law enforcement officials do not have the power to deport these criminal illegal aliens. This bill will place the proper authorities in the hands of our communities in order to send these criminal illegal aliens back over the border for good. In addition, because those who committed crimes are more likely to break the law again, this bill will pick up those who slipped through the cracks of the Citizenship USA Program. It is my hope that the INS will now correct the wrongs they have committed against law-abiding U.S. citizens. The INS must take appropriate action to deport those who are found to have submitted falsified documents to gain U.S. citizenship. It is the right thing to do for the safety of our children and the security of our neighborhoods. We must rid our streets of these criminal aliens.