

this ignorance could not equal the strength that Marian Anderson had, nor the power held by a dismayed Eleanor Roosevelt, who instead arranged for Marian Anderson to share her talent with an even larger audience. So in 1939, she gave a brilliant performance at the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday, also broadcast over national radio. Later that year, she received more attention and was awarded the Spingarn Award for the highest and noblest achievement by a black American.

This recognition was just the beginning of Marian Anderson's honors. In 1955, she broke the musical color barrier with her overdue debut at the Metropolitan Opera. Then in 1958, she was named by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to delegate status at the General Assembly of the United Nations. Over the course of her life she received 24 honorary degrees by college institutions; and she received medals from a list of countries. She also sang at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961, and President Johnson gave her the American Medal of Honor. On her 75th birthday in 1974, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution to have a special gold medal minted in her name.

It is obvious to see that Marian Anderson was one of America's most accomplished musical talents, but she is also so much more. Marian Anderson was a humanitarian who had the heart to make a difference in the world as well as open the doors of American concert halls for other African-American musicians who had been denied their place for far too long. Marian Anderson challenged the concepts of prejudice and won the world to her side through her talent, dignity and virtuosity.

Mr. Speaker, Marian Anderson was and still is a true national treasure. She took brave steps in eliminating segregation through the power of song and spirituals that transcended race and cultures. I am honored to recognize such a heroic lady on the date which marks the 58th anniversary of her concert at the Lincoln Memorial. I am also proud to be a cosponsor of the Marian Anderson Centennial Commemorative Coin Act and would urge my colleagues to do the same and join me in giving one last honor to the legacy of a lady, a musician, a civil rights champion, and a promoter of world peace.

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 58th anniversary of Marian Anderson's historic concert at the Lincoln Memorial. In addition, this year is the centennial anniversary of her birth. In honor of these significant events, it's appropriate that we take a moment to pay tribute to this very special woman and a long time resident of my hometown, who is not only acclaimed for her glorious God-given voice, but for the historic contributions she made on behalf of all African-Americans.

Marian Anderson, of Danbury, CT, the first African-American singer to perform with the Metropolitan Opera, stands out as a leading example of African-American pride and achievement.

As a young woman developing her singing career, Miss Anderson faced many obstacles, and was often the victim of racism. Probably the most widely known incident occurred in 1939, when, after triumphant appearances throughout Europe and the Soviet Union, she was prevented from performing at Washington's Constitution Hall by its owners. To apologize for that mistreatment, First Lady Eleanor

Roosevelt invited Miss Anderson to perform at the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday, 1939.

Miss Anderson proudly sang to an audience of 75,000 people, while millions more listened over national radio. Her inspirational performance that April day is considered by historians as the first crucial victory of the modern civil rights movement.

Even after her artistry was recognized in the United States, Miss Anderson still faced racial prejudice on a daily basis. Well into her career, she was turned away at restaurants and hotels. Even America's opera houses remained closed to her until Rudolf Bing invited her to sing at the Metropolitan Opera.

Throughout all of her trials and struggles, Miss Anderson did not give up. Her undaunted spirit fought on and her determination opened doors for future black artists that had been firmly bolted shut.

The soprano Lenotyne Price, one of the earliest artists to profit from Miss Anderson's efforts, once said, "Her example of professionalism, uncompromising standards, overcoming obstacles, persistence, resiliency and undaunted spirit inspired me to believe that I could achieve goals that otherwise would have been unthought of."

Soprano Jessye Norman said, "At age 10 I heard, for the first time, the singing of Marian Anderson on a recording. I listened, thinking, this can't be just a voice, so rich and beautiful. It was a revelation. And I wept."

Later in life, Miss Anderson was named a delegate to the United Nations by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Carter. She died in 1993, but her successful fight to give every individual an opportunity to achieve their own greatness, helped our country become a stronger nation. Her contributions will live on forever.

I'm proud to join my colleagues for this Special Order and I'm honored to be a cosponsor of the Marian Anderson Centennial Commemorative Coin Act. Each of us must learn from the example set by Marion Anderson to eliminate hate and violence, and create a stronger, more tolerant America. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

EASING TAX BURDEN FOR ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would ease the tax burden for all Americans and assist all of us in pursuit of the American dream.

This legislation contains three simple provisions affecting the Tax Code: Indexation of the capital gains tax, establishment of the American dream savings accounts, and repeal of the 1993 increase in taxes on Social Security benefits.

Quite simply, this bill is designed to right several wrong things that I think presently exist in the Tax Code. And I would point out, Mr. Speaker, these three things are offset by reductions in the Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy. Surely the Department of Commerce would appre-

ciate the fact that we are reducing taxes, and so would the Department of Energy. So the important thing about this bill is it is budget neutral.

The legislation addresses capital gains taxation. This type of tax arises when an asset is sold and the difference between the base and the sales price is taxed. The appreciation in value can reflect real or perhaps it can reflect inflationary gain. Because of the uniqueness of this tax, what happens is, people hold an asset for a long period of time, they are taxed, and basically much of that tax is due to inflation.

Put simply, gains should be indexed to account for this inflation, and that is what this bill does. I can give some statistics, which I will make part of the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, but basically, in real terms, fixing this simple capital gains indexation will increase investments by \$75 billion, raise gross domestic product by \$120 billion, and reduce the cost of capital by 12 percent, creating an average of 233 additional new jobs.

Best of all, a capital gains tax reduction affects nearly everyone in this country. In fact, nearly 50 percent of those Americans who claim capital gains have incomes of less than \$40,000, and 60 percent of those who claim capital gains have incomes of less than \$50,000.

The second part of this legislation establishes dream savings accounts to encourage personal responsibility and, frankly, savings. In short, America needs a system that encourages and betters retirement and big-event purchasing savings and does so through these dream savings accounts.

The current system does not provide any incentive at all for Americans to save for their first home or for their children's college education, nor does the current system afford American taxpayers the opportunity to use their retirement savings for catastrophic events. In fact, it can easily be argued that the current system penalizes Americans. We must change that.

The third part of my bill would repeal the tax increases on the Social Security benefits that were enacted in President Clinton's 1993 budget reconciliation bill. Prior to 1993, individuals with income in excess of a certain threshold could be taxed only at half of their Social Security benefits. Recipients with incomes below the threshold were not at all taxed on their Social Security income.

However, after President Clinton's 1993 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act had been implemented, higher income thresholds were achieved. Now, individuals earning above these thresholds can be taxed at 85 percent of their Social Security benefits.

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Unfortunately this bill also includes dividends on earnings. Thereby even tax-exempt dividends count as income when calculating Social Security taxation. Simply put, the tax increase in

the President's bill is unfair and wrong. It is punitive and hurtful toward our Nation's seniors and should be repealed. The last Congress sent to the President legislation to repeal the Social Security provisions, but the President stood by his original plan and it did not pass. Nevertheless, this issue is not resolved as far as I am concerned. We must address this issue, which is why I have introduced the language in this legislation to repeal the onerous 1993 tax increase on our seniors. This bill is very simple. It does these three things. It is common sense and fair. Simply altering a few necessary portions of our Tax Code, it would help all Americans and give a fair and level playing field. Best of all, every penny in reduced revenue is offset by reductions in the funds available to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy. This is a small but important step forward in the debate over our Nation's future. This is legislation we cannot afford to live without.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is imperative for our country's present and future generations that we address these issues today.

RECOGNIZING MARIAN ANDERSON ON CENTENNIAL OF HER BIRTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me first of all thank my friend and colleague and ranking member of the Science Committee for the diversity of his portfolio, and, that is, to come to the floor to celebrate a very famous but eloquent and certainly musical American, and that is in the name of Marian Anderson.

I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN] for allowing to join him in a tribute on a very special day here in Washington. Certainly as I was coming to the floor, I took advantage of the beautiful sunshine, albeit quite chilly here in Washington DC, and it caused me to be reminded of that famous day some years ago, April 9, when the first lady of music, contralto Marian Anderson, ascended the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and began to sing not to the 75,000 that were present but to the world and to the Nation. Her dignity and her ability to communicate in song clearly is worth giving tribute to, and I appreciate this opportunity to do so.

As I look over her history and we were able to acknowledge today at the Congressional Black Caucus meeting this day and this effort, we looked at her history. Certainly she came from a very proud family. She graduated from high school. You might consider her, as W.E.B. Du Bois described many in the early days of this century, the talented tenth. She was certainly someone

whose family, albeit she was born an African-American in this Nation, had great hopes and aspirations for her. They had great dreams for her as an American, as a talented young woman.

Sadly, of course, she grew up in the shadow of Jim Crow. But her spirit was undaunted by the atmosphere of what she lived, and the God-given talent that she had was one that she wanted to share with all to hear. She was initially, of course, extended an invitation to speak in a facility that later became known as white-only, that she could not sing. But good Americans, well-thinking Americans who recognized the value of diversity and the importance of a talent in an eloquent woman as Marian Anderson should be heard.

And so this tribute that I give is as well to Marian for her talent but for the good Americans who rallied around the excitement that she had to be able to convey to America that we all stand as one.

Mr. Speaker, my tribute today, as I bring it to a close, is to congratulate the life and legacy of Marian Anderson. I wish that I could conclude this by a musical salute that all could hear, but I was moved by the moment and moved by the history of that moment, having not been there or been around to have heard it, but certainly all those who have been able to tell me of it pay great tribute to how she brought the country together, recognizing the value of our great history, of African-Americans but as well the history of all the good people who allowed her to so sing.

Let me conclude by sharing some of my time with the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN] for him to bring some final remarks and say that on this day that the proposition 209 was again reaffirmed. I would ask that we look to the good people of America to recognize that diversity is legal and that Marian Anderson represented that diversity some many years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN].

Mr. BROWN of California. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I want to thank her very much for coming to the floor and adding her contribution to this tribute to Marian Anderson.

In closing this special order this afternoon, I would just like to say how honored I am to join with all of my colleagues honoring the centennial of the birth of Marian Anderson. During the long journey of her life, as has been mentioned and despite her unique achievements, Marian Anderson nevertheless encountered bigotry throughout her career. She met it all with unparalleled dignity, quietly refusing to back down from her rights, to forsake her own standard of politeness or to hold any grudges.

One can lose a lot of time hating people, she succinctly explained. As you remember, President Clinton urged in his State of the Union Address this year that Americans must continu-

ously fight bigotry and intolerance. To follow the example set by Marian Anderson, I would like to close this special order this afternoon by quoting what she saw was the mission of her life, and I quote: "To leave behind me the kind of impression that will make it easier for those who follow."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of illness.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for yesterday and today, on account of family illness.

Mr. SCHIFF (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. PORTER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SHIMKUS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BRADY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes each day, today and on April 10.

Mr. BONO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes each day, on April 15 and 16.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STEARNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. McGOVERN.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. PICKETT.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. STARK.

Ms. FURSE.

Ms. KAPTUR.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. POMEROY.

Mr. LIPINSKI.