

complaints from citizens about heavy-handed tactics of the IRS, gross abuse of power and politically motivated tax audits. Finally, we are treated to a public hearing of these accusations. The only surprise is that things are even worse than we thought.

IRS stories are nothing new. I worked in this field for 15 years preparing tax returns. I had to live through many of these horrors with families. Everyone has got one, someone who has had their whole life turned upside down by an IRS agent who cannot tell the difference between a tax cheat, the little guy who has made an honest mistake, and an ordinary citizen trying as best they can to comply with an incredibly complicated Tax Code that even IRS experts, from my experience, do not understand.

We need to clean up the system and simplify it.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, does a fish feel the wet? So asked an editorial writer last week in discussing campaign finance reform. A fish spends so much time in water he does not wake up one morning and say, gosh, I feel damp today.

Have we in Congress become so immersed in campaign dollars that we no longer feel the wet? Have we become fish, so used to swimming in the search for campaign donations that we no longer feel the wet? Have our lives become so immersed in making calls for donations that we no longer feel the wet? Do we spend so much time worrying about the level of money in our campaign funds that we no longer feel the wet? Has the Republican leadership become so immersed in the flood of campaign donations that they no longer feel the wet and will do everything they can to block campaign finance reform from even coming to the floor of this House? Madam Speaker, we have been immersed so long our voters no longer think we are wet. They think we are sliding. It is time to get out of the wet, dry off, and pass campaign finance reform.

LT. COMDR. ROBERT CURBEAM

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Madam Speaker, we Republicans in Congress are fighting to return rigorous academic standards to the public classroom. However, something just as critical is also missing from public schools: teaching our children virtue, patriotism, and citizenship. A shining example of those qualities was presented in my district last week when Lt. Comdr. Robert Curbeam, U.S. Navy, joined me in visiting four schools in the 27th Congress-

sional District of California. For 6 straight hours, Bob Curbeam shuttled from Burbank to Glendale to Pasadena to Altadena. Bob went from classroom to classroom, and assembly to assembly talking to hundreds of children—many of them at-risk children—about his experiences as an astronaut aboard the NASA space shuttle *Discovery*, mission STS 85. I wish every Member of this body could have seen the faces on these children when they were able to see and listen to Bob Curbeam talking about the importance of studying hard, staying away from drugs and gangs, and believing in themselves.

The final school we visited was a school for emotionally disturbed children. Many of them live at the school because no suitable family homelife is available to them. At the end of Bob's speech, two young wide-eyed boys walked up to him and said, "when I grow up, I want to be just like you." What a wonderful tribute that was to a wonderful role model. That is what heroes are all about. That is what patriotism is all about. That is what Robert Curbeam is all about. I am proud to count him as a friend; I am grateful for his service to our country; and I am deeply thankful that there are role models for young children like Bob Curbeam. As long as America produces leaders like him, we can continue to look forward to the future of our country with great confidence.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S FIRST-EVER PLAY BY A WOMAN

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House the fact that history was made in my district last Saturday. Liz Heaston, a 20-year-old junior, made college football's first ever play by a woman. Playing for the fifth-ranked undefeated NAIA Willamette University football team in Salem, OR, she entered the stadium late after playing in an earlier soccer game and kicked an extra point following the Bearcats' second touchdown at the end of the second half. Not only has Liz Heaston made history, but she has also demonstrated to everyone that with hard work, dedication, and the ability to dream, you can accomplish anything. Good work, Liz.

WORKING TO REFORM THE IRS

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THUNE. Madam Speaker, are you afraid to step up to the customer service counter at Sears and return an item if it is the wrong size or color? Are you afraid to send a plate of cold food back to the kitchen in a restaurant? Are you afraid to tell your mechanic about the strange noise in the new muffler they just installed? Probably not.

Are you afraid to call the IRS after finding an honest mistake in your tax return? You bet you are. So are most Americans.

A few weeks ago in church I met a man who was having terrible problems with the IRS. He wanted to come forward and share his story with one of the local TV stations, but in the end he decided not to. He was too afraid.

We have a lot of things to fear in the world today, from terrorist bombings abroad to gang violence here on the home front. Dealing with a Government agency created by and supported by our tax dollars should not be one of them. This is one of the reasons we need to reform the IRS, but that alone is not enough. We cannot expect efficiency and accommodation from an agency that is expected to enforce the world's most complicated Tax Code. We need to reform the IRS, but we also need to reform the Tax Code. Paying taxes is hard enough. We do not need 110,000 IRS employees and 4,000 amendments to the Tax Code to make it even harder.

CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT ACT

(Mr. GREEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to join my colleague and say that we do need to reform the Tax Code and reform the IRS. Let us do it this year. Let us do it before we leave here in November. Let us take care of it now so the folks next year, when they pay their taxes, will be able to deal with it.

I am going to talk about a bill that is on the calendar today. H.R. 2646 is a bill we will vote on today that will allow for IRA's for education expenses for elementary, secondary students. Public education has always been important to the United States. H.R. 2646 allows a parent to set up a tax-free IRA of \$2,500 a year per child and that money could be used for subsidizing investment accounts for either public or private school extra expenses. However, the bill takes scarce Federal dollars and leaves out 90 percent of the students who attend public schools. This will cost the taxpayers \$5 billion a year.

Why should taxpayer money be redirected to a small few? Sixty-four percent of families with children under the age of 18 will not be able to participate in this bill. They have to buy uniforms and computers, too. Let us help most of the people, not a select few.

EDUCATION

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, why are the Democrats trying to keep the status quo in public education? Are

they so much in the pocket of the Washington Teachers Union that they are willing to sacrifice America's children to educational mediocrity.

As a public school graduate and the son and brother of teachers, I am appalled by this out-of-touch, deny-reality approach to education. Just because Washington bureaucrats do not want to improve public education does not mean that Congress should be afraid to tackle the job.

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Since my graduation from high school, SAT scores have fallen. Tests on an international basis show that Americans are behind German, Japanese, and British children, and private schools and charter schools are flourishing in popularity.

Why? Because of local control. Because of less Washington bureaucrats. Not because of Washington redtape and all the status quo things that the Democrat Party seems so content to keep piling on, and piling on, on the teacher and her classroom.

I say let us improve public education. Let us start by returning dollars not to the Washington bureaucracy but to the teacher in the classroom.

SUPPORT H.R. 2649 OR H.R. 2650 TO END LINE-ITEM VETO

(Mr. SKAGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKAGGS. Madam Speaker, I think there was an interesting experience yesterday in the hearings before the Committee on National Security as we watched the worm turn. I noted with some sense of irony the protests that were being made about the President's recent exercise of the line-item veto, a power given to him by most of those who were protesting its exercise.

The fears that we had that this would be an invitation to an abuse of power are being borne out. It is unconstitutional. It is bad public policy.

Who do we have to blame? Ourselves.

How do we undo it? Let us start here with a better approach: Expedited rescissions, giving the President the power to flag wasteful items, but then we have to vote and vote promptly.

We have a measure for every taste. If my colleagues would like to repeal the line-item veto and replace it with expedited rescissions, H.R. 2649.

If we are purists and want to completely repeal the line-item veto, a completely defensible point of view as well, H.R. 2650.

BIG HAT, NO CATTLE

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, we know that the President and other politicians talk an awful lot

about education reform but, unfortunately, that is about as far as it gets. Because for all the talk about improving our Nation's schools, when it comes to concrete action, real reforms that will force bad schools to improve or shut down, there is no action.

It is a case once again, as they say in Texas, of "big hat, no cattle." Take for example A+ Accounts. A+ Accounts are education savings accounts which let parents save in a tax-free account so that they can send their kids to a better school if the public schools in their neighborhood are bad.

But the President and his special interest allies oppose the idea of A+ Accounts. They would rather force kids to stay in crummy schools than to take on the special interests that are incapable of reforming bad schools. But, of course, this will not stop them from talking about education reform and reforming bad schools. "Big hat, no cattle."

UNITE BEHIND PUBLIC EDUCATION, REJECT PRIVATE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, well, as we know in Texas, you do not help our public schools by siphoning off the money and giving it to private elite academies, and that is what this so-called Private School Expense Act that we are about to debate is all about.

It is at the expense of public education that we help the private elite academies that serve a small percentage of the wealthiest among us. I think it is wrong. I represent communities in the capital of Texas, the central Texas area, that will next month receive more blue ribbon school awards for quality public education than any other area our size.

Our business community supports our public schools through a massive adopt-a-school program of time and resources. But today's Private School Expense Act goes in just the opposite direction. If we want to support those efforts, those local community efforts for strong public schools, we do not take Federal resources and divert them and provide an incentive for the wealthy to leave public education.

Let us unite behind public education and reject this private incentive program.

FIND A WAY TO PRESERVE THE HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

(Mr. WALSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALSH. Madam Speaker, not very far from the Capitol in Southeast Washington sits the historic Congressional Cemetery. The name is some-

what misleading, since the cemetery itself is not affiliated with the U.S. Congress. However, there are over 60,000 interments there, including America's "March King," John Philip Sousa; former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover; Native Americans; military leaders; and over 50 former Members of Congress.

Over the years, the cemetery has fallen into disrepair. It was in need of a thorough cleanup, and under the leadership of our own Jim Oliver from the Cloakroom, who also heads the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery, the project was undertaken last month.

It would be impossible to name the hundreds of volunteers, but special praise goes to Air Force M. Sgt. Thomas Williams and Sgt. Dave Lutzow, both stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, who saw a program on the History Channel listing the cemetery as an endangered national treasure. Also, our former colleague, Bill Carney of New York, deserves great praise.

It was a terrific effort but more needs to be done. We have to find a way to provide for permanent care and maintenance of this treasure. It is truly historic and of national significance.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, yesterday the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues held a very successful title IX hearing. This is the 25th anniversary of title IX and it has afforded the opportunity for hundreds of thousands of young women and others to attend higher education. Title IX was signed into law by President Nixon and enacted on June 23, 1972.

I am happy to also announce that today I will introduce legislation for a Congressional Gold Medal for Ms. Wilma Rudolph, a pioneer. The legislation is sponsored by original sponsors, nearly 40 of them here in this House of Representatives. It just so happens that June 23, the day the bill was enacted, is Ms. Wilma Rudolph's anniversary of her birthday, and we honor title IX.

Twenty-five years. We have come a long way, and we have a long way to go into the new millennium. It is our hope the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues will put this issue before the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

TAX REFORM

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, according to the Cato Institute about one-half of the 10 million correction notices