

appreciate your impressive contributions to our great nation.

Over the past 50 years you have endured changes in your name, command, mission, aircraft, and location. You've been activated and deactivated, stretched far beyond your resources and had your budgets slashed to frightening levels. Through it all, you stayed the course, steadfast in your commitment to serve, professional and dependable, always meeting the demands placed upon you.

You continue to enjoy unparalleled success as the premier associate wing in the Air Force Reserve Command. The nation has watched the members of the 514th AMW leave your families and home for the Korean war, the Cuban missile crisis, the Vietnam war and the evacuation of South Vietnamese refugees. Alongside your active duty brethren, you were among the first forces into the Vietnam conflict. In fact, it was a reserve crew from the now-deactivated 335th Military Airlift Squadron that flew the last mission of Operation Babylift from Saigon. You continue to support Operation Southern Watch and humanitarian missions too numerous to count.

Please accept this tribute of a nation grateful for the tremendous sacrifices you have made and continue to make in defense of the many freedoms we enjoy. We are proud of you. We support you. We thank you.

MAYS FAMILY IN ROBSTOWN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a family that has been a large part of the history of my hometown, Robstown, Texas, for the better part of the 20th Century. Next week, the Mays Family will hold a family reunion in the Omni Bayfront Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas.

I am honored to know this fine family, and I want to let my colleagues in the House of Representatives know about these pioneers. Riley and Ella Mays moved to Robstown from Kosse, Texas, in 1912; they were the first black family to live in Robstown, which is a largely Hispanic enclave west of Corpus Christi in Nueces County in the Coastal Bend of Texas.

The Mays family is a distinguished and respected family in the community and in the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, which was founded by Riley Mays. Both Riley and Ella saw the need for a Baptist church in the area, so they acquired a building which doubled as a church and as the first black public school in the area.

Riley Mays was the first Deacon there and a Sunday School teacher until his death. Ella Mays was a nurse and the first president of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church's missionary society. They both directed the school there.

To commemorate the first black family to settle in Robstown and to honor the family patriarch, the city named a street in Riley Mays' honor. Shortly, a historical marker will be established at the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church to pay tribute to the Mays family as well. The great and lasting legacy left to their family by Riley and Ella Mays is that the

strength of the United States is found in the family unit.

This is the tradition that their descendants celebrate each day and it is the tradition that they will celebrate en masse August 6–8, when they hold their family reunion. Riley and Ella Mays had 14 children, and today have over 450 descendants who are active in their communities, schools and churches all over Texas and the United States.

I ask my colleague to join me in wishing them well as they gather to commemorate their families' tradition of service to community and country.

HONORING RONALD E. TEATER

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I would like to take a minute to tell my fellow colleagues and the American people about Ronald E. Teater. Mr. Teater is a great, faithful and hardworking Mississippian. He is the kind of person who should serve as a role model for all of us.

I am telling you about Mr. Teater today because he is being honored this weekend by the Mendenhall, Mississippi Fire Department. Can you imagine being part of one organization for fifty years? Mr. Teater can because that is how long he has been faithfully serving the citizens of Mendenhall in their fire department. This dedication to the people of his community speaks loudly and clearly as to the good character of Mr. Teater.

Ronald E. Teater is an American who fought for his nation during World War II in the United States Navy. Mr. Teater has also served the people of Mendenhall as a town alderman. He has been a man for all seasons. He has given his time in making all of our lives safer and better.

And, I understand that Mr. Teater has no intentions of slowing down.

Just think about being a fireman for 50 years. Think about the countless people he has protected. Think about the folks he has helped and consoled. We can never be thankful enough to our nation's firefighters. And, Mr. Teater goes at the top of the list.

Ronald E. Teater is a person to admire, look up to and respect. He is a man that deserves our praise. To Mr. Teater I would like to say thank you. Thank you for serving, thank you for caring and thank you for giving your time, energy and efforts to make Mendenhall, Mississippi and America what they are today.

RECOGNIZING JACK QUINN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts and hard work of Mr. Jack Quinn. Because of his leadership, work ethic, and selection to participate in the Washington, DC Fannie Mae Partnership Summit, I now honor this remarkable man.

Mr. Quinn received a bachelor of science degree from Fairfield University and later earned a master of arts in public administration from the University of Northern Colorado. After finishing his education, he went on to serve the people of Colorado, specifically Pueblo, CO, in various capacities.

Jack Quinn has been an active participant in many housing organizations including Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, Colorado Housing Finance Authority, and Pueblo Neighborhood Housing Services. He was instrumental in founding the Mountain/Plains Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials in 1973. Recently, he completed a 2-year term as National President of this association.

Mr. Quinn also takes an active role in his community, serving as the chairman of the board of St. Mary Corwin Regional Medical Center and chairman of the Finance Committee for Pueblo Community College Foundation. At one time, he also dedicated his time and energy to serving as Chairman of United Way. Presently, Mr. Jack Quinn works with the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Chamber of Commerce, and the State Fair.

Mr. Jack Quinn is a unique and valuable individual. Working for the Pueblo Housing Authority for over 30 years, he has served as Executive Director for 27 of those years. I greatly appreciate his role in leadership, his involvement and dedication to the Pueblo community, and the example he sets.

FINANCIAL FREEDOM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his qualified support for H.R. 2488, the Financial Freedom Act. At the outset, this Member thinks that a tax cut is very good for the American people and for the economy, but he wants to make sure that it is the right size and that it focuses on middle income Americans.

In particular, this Member also wants to see some of the future surplus funds used to reduce the national debt. By locking away some of the additional money for Social Security and Medicare, and by reasonable limits on the tax cut, we can devote more of any real surplus to retiring more of the national debt. At this Member's town hall meetings, he has found Nebraskans resoundingly in favor of reducing the national debt and many of his colleagues have told him that they have had the same experience. This Member is pleased to know that the manager's amendment to H.R. 2488 expresses the sense of Congress on its commitment to debt reduction and a national debt increase trigger which would annually block the across-the-board Federal income tax reduction if the amount of that debt interest outlay increases for total U.S. Federal Government debt from the amount of the previous year. This means there will be an iron-clad method to assure that there is a payment toward reducing the national debt.

This Member is confident that the size of the tax cut will be reduced in conference. He thinks that the proposed reduction in taxes

over the next 10 years may be too big because of overly optimistic budget surplus projections. This Member fully expects that after conference with the Senate this tax cut will be reduced in size.

In regards to inheritance taxes, this Member does not think the conference version of this tax bill should or will include a total elimination of the Federal inheritance tax in the case of "super-wealthy" individuals. While this Member wants to give inheritance tax relief to family farms and family small businesses by accelerating the exemption level for Federal inheritance taxes to \$1 million, he does not think it is appropriate at this time to eliminate the Federal inheritance tax altogether for very wealthy individuals. Hopefully, the complete phase-out will be eliminated in the House-Senate Conference. Some say the super-wealthy don't pay inheritance tax anyway—that they in part give it to charities or establish foundations to avoid taxes. Of course that is an exaggeration, but certainly we don't want to reduce such charity or beneficial giving by eliminating the inheritance tax on the super-wealthy. The American society would surely be harmed.

This Member also notes that the legislation includes tax relief for private utilities with nuclear power plants in a state-deregulated environment. It is important to recognize that as states have taken action to deregulate, two unintended Federal tax problems have resulted. This bill addresses the nuclear decommissioning fund issue which affects private utilities. Unfortunately, the bill does not address the private-use issue which affects consumer-owned utilities. This Member hopes that during the conference, relief can also be provided to consumer-owned utilities which are also hindered by an outdated Federal tax law.

On a different note, this Member is quite pleased that two particular provisions are included in H.R. 2488 which will increase rural housing opportunities. In fact, this Member has been quite active during his entire tenure in promoting the need for adequate, affordable rural housing. First, H.R. 2488 includes an increase in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program from \$1.25 to \$1.75 per capita. The bill phases in the increase by 10 cents per year from 2000 to 2004 until it reaches \$1.75 and indexes it for inflation thereafter. This provision will give states additional resources in providing rural housing throughout America. Second, H.R. 2488 accelerates the phase in of the private activity cap to \$75 per capita beginning in 2000. This provision will give additional capital for financing home purchases by low and moderate-income homebuyers in the mortgage revenue bond program.

Therefore, for the above reasons and others, this Member gives his qualified support to H.R. 2488, the Financial Freedom Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER TAX EXEMPTION ACT OF 1999

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that would strengthen our national educational system by addressing the most important education issue facing the country, teacher quality.

My legislation will provide a financial bonus, in the form of a tax exemption, to qualified teachers who teach in schools where fifty-percent or more of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

There are many things we can do to increase teacher quality, and some steps are being attempted now through other legislation. But one of the most concrete and important steps we can take is to create real financial incentives for qualified individuals to teach in high-poverty schools.

For high poverty schools, attracting and retraining well-qualified teachers is a critical part of a comprehensive strategy to close the achievement gap between rich and poor students and between minority and non-minority students.

Schools serving low-income students have far too few adequately qualified teachers. Research suggests that this is one of the primary reasons that the achievement of low-income students lags behind that of more affluent students.

This achievement gap is both unnecessary and dangerous. All children can achieve at high levels if they are taught at high levels. The achievement gap threatens not only the life chances of millions of low-income students but also the civic and economic health of the country as a whole.

It is incumbent upon us to act quickly and decisively to correct it.

We have heard much about nationwide "teacher shortages." Indeed, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that schools will need to hire 2 million teachers over the next decade.

But the real problem is not absolute teacher shortages, but rather shortages in specific geographical areas and in certain academic subjects. In particular, there is a dearth of teachers in particular subject areas—such as special and bilingual education, mathematics, and science. And there is a shortage of qualified teachers in underfunded schools, particularly in urban and rural districts.

For example, in the largest local educational agency in my Congressional district—the West Contra Costa County Unified School District—62% of all teachers hired this year are college interns or are teachers with emergency credentials. Because West Contra Costa is not as affluent as other neighboring school districts, and therefore cannot offer the same salaries and working conditions, it faces serious challenges in competing for qualified teachers.

Furthermore, even within the same school district, where schools offer the same salary schedules, emergency-certified teachers are overwhelmingly concentrated in the highest poverty schools. While the high-poverty schools 50% or more of the entire faculty is under-qualified, in other schools, just miles away, all teachers are fully-credentialed.

I believe that higher pay, along with ongoing professional development and support, especially for new teachers, can go a long way in leveling the educational playing field. Boosting pay in key professions is widely recognized as an effective strategy for maintaining quality. For example, the House Defense Appropriations bill for the Fiscal Year 2000 contains \$300 million in bonuses to help retain qualified Air Force pilots.

We need to mount a similar effort nationwide to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers so that all children, regardless of

where they live or their family background, have the opportunity for a world-class education.

My legislation would exempt the first \$40,000 in salary for teachers teaching academic subjects in high-poverty schools—schools in which at least 50% of the students enrolled qualify for the free or reduced price lunch programs. It would increase take-home pay by about \$5,900 for a qualified single teacher with the average national teacher salary of \$40,000.

In order to qualify for the exemption, teachers who provide instruction would have to be qualified to provide instruction in each and every academic course they teach. Elementary school teachers would have to demonstrate teaching skill and general subject matter knowledge required to teach effectively in reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, science, and other elements of a liberal arts education. Middle school and secondary school teachers would have to demonstrate a high level of teaching skill and subject matter knowledge in the subjects they teach either by attaining passing scores on academic subject area tests or by holding a bachelor's degree with an academic major in each of the subject areas in which they provide instruction.

Qualified special education teachers and bilingual teachers also would be eligible for the exemption.

I believe a teacher salary tax exemption is an ideal way to solve several critical problems. It would strengthen education, and address the most important education issue facing the country, by steering high quality teachers to underperforming schools. And it would provide targeted tax relief to the middle class rather than an open-ended tax cut that benefits wealthier Americans without solving any critical particular social problem.

U.S. teachers teach more hours per day than their counterparts in other countries and take more work home to complete at night, on the weekends and holidays. At the same time, U.S. teachers must go into substantial debt to become prepared for a field that pays less than virtually any other occupation requiring a college degree.

I believe taxpayers are willing to direct additional resources to raise teacher salaries to a level commensurate with teachers' knowledge and skills and with the important role they play in our society. But I also think the public wants and deserves to know that such funds are being spent in an effective and responsible manner that results in improved academic achievement for students. That means tying increased pay to teacher qualifications and deploying our most talented teachers in the areas that are having the most difficult time attracting and retaining them.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in passing this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING MS. WILSON'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a great day, on which thirty Kindergarten students from the Shady Lane