

We even managed to give the American people a tax cut in the process. The result? We now have projected budget surpluses for years to come totalling more than a trillion dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I don't buy the argument that raising taxes in times of emergency would be too difficult or even needed. But even if it were, I believe that Congress can and would put aside partisan differences and raise taxes in an appropriate manner to meet the nation's needs.

Draining more and more dollars from private individuals and businesses should not be easy. Taking a bigger bite out of the American people's paychecks should be just as difficult for that tax-collector as it is for us to earn those paychecks.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to the American people to pass this amendment. We owe it to the American family. It's difficult enough to make "ends meet" these days. So on this tax day, let's put the final nail in the coffin of the days of "tax and spend" and pass this amendment.

TAX LIMITATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Tax Limitation Amendment.

In his 1985 State of the Union speech, President Reagan said,

Every dollar the Federal Government does not take from us, every decision it does not make for us will make our economy stronger, our lives more abundant, our future more free.

Unfortunately, either the tax and spend liberals did not hear President Reagan or they weren't listening.

In 1993, the Clinton administration and the Democrat-led Congress passed into law the greatest tax increase in American history. And they passed it with a simple majority.

Today, the typical American family spends more money on taxes than it spends on food, clothing, shelter, and transportation combined. This is a burden of more than 38 percent.

While the Republican-led Congress has worked to alleviate the tax burden on our hard-working families over the last 4 years, the Federal tax portion of national production is at a post-World War II high. In fact, it is over 20 percent of the gross domestic product.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. Every year, the Federal Government continues to take more money out of the pockets of American workers, even during times of prosperity. Now, with the first budget surplus in a generation, we should be rewarding our hardworking American families for helping the country get back on its feet, not punish them with more taxes.

Today, we have an opportunity to ensure Congress acts responsibly with taxpayer dollars. The Tax Limitation Act would amend the Constitution to require a two-thirds "super majority" vote by Congress before it could increase taxes on American families.

That two-thirds majority indicates bipartisan support. And in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, Congress should never seek to raise taxes on the American people without a two-thirds majority.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Tax Limitation Act.

MELVIN RICE

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 1999

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, Melvin Rice began his career in law enforcement on March 5, 1973, with the Abington Township Police Department. Melvin was a member of the last class to be held at the Old York Road Police Department. During his 25 years in the department, Melvin worked the Patrol Division and was in the Special Task Force and Juvenile Detective Division for 2 years. He became one of the first (of four) K-9 officers in the department and served in that position for the past 16 years. Melvin has received numerous citations from the department, the U.S. Police Canine Association and other departments. Melvin also has served in the Abington Township Police Honor Guard and the Abington Township Human Relations Board.

It was Melvin's desire to recruit more minorities into the law enforcement field. This led him to develop the first concept of the pre-testing tutoring program, which was later adopted as an ongoing process for all new recruits.

The most rewarding experience came when Melvin cofounded, along with Sgt. William Hold, the Montgomery County Black Law Enforcement Officers Association, an association dedicated to minority recruitment.

Melvin retired on January 24, 1999, to spend time with his wife, Georgianna, his son, Michael, and his daughter, Danielle, daughter-in-law, Misty, and grandson, Joshua. He leaves the department with many happy memories and will continue his work with the Montgomery County Black Law Enforcement Officers Association and in his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 82, congratulating the State of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THOMAS WARD HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas J. Ward of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Tom is retiring as President and CEO of Blue Cross of Northeastern

Pennsylvania. I am pleased to have been asked to join in honoring his long career.

Tom began his career in New York in a variety of health care-related positions. In 1967, he was a research assistant for a special environmental project of the New York Department of Health. He taught at the State University of New York and later served as a research consultant there until 1969. Tom also held several positions at the Albany Medical College until he arrived in Northeastern Pennsylvania in 1973. He began as Director of Planning and Research for the Health and Hospital Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and later became the Deputy Director of the entire Council. In 1976, Tom became Special Assistant of Health Care Planning at Blue Cross. He went on to hold the posts of Director of Professional Affairs, Vice-President of Professional and Public Affairs, and Executive Vice-President before being appointed President and CEO in October 1990.

Since 1990, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania has soared in membership. Tom helped shift Blue Cross from an indemnity company to a managed care company by establishing six divisions in 1992, each under the supervision of a vice-president. Tom also instituted a quality management approach to review all the processes in the company and establish specific improvement goals.

Tom is very active in our community, sitting on the Board of Keystone Junior College, the Lackawanna County Association of Retarded Citizens, the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania, the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, and the Boy Scouts of America. Tom and his wife Priscilla have five grown children and reside in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania.

Through his able leadership and broad vision of health insurance needs of the future, Tom Ward has skillfully led Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with his family, friends, and colleagues in thanking him for "a job well done" and wishing him a happy, healthy, and productive retirement.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 46, the "Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act." Our nation's firefighters, enforcement officers, and other emergency services personnel put themselves at risk every day to assure the safety of the general public. Just as our military personnel are recognized for extraordinary acts of valor in the effort to preserve peace abroad, so should our domestic safety officers be recognized for their bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

Last year, Members of Congress witnessed an extraordinary act of valor as Capitol Hill police officers gave their lives defending the Halls of Congress from a gunman intent on shooting his way into Congress. It was a potent reminder of the risks every public safety officer face each and every day. I never will

forget that sacrifice and by supporting this legislation I hope to draw more attention to sacrifices of the hundreds of thousands of public safety officers that serve our country.

In Delaware, I am particularly proud of the work of our firefighters because most of them

serve the State voluntarily. Likewise, Delaware's police officers often find themselves squarely in the sights of a criminal's handgun, which prompted me to support legislation to provide all of Delaware's police force with bulletproof vests.

Again, I urge every Member to come together and support the "Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act." It symbolizes honor and recognition that is long past due.