

only be appreciated by those who have benefited from such good fortune.

There are special teachers with extraordinary talents in every kind of school in America, in rich and poor, urban and rural, public and private. Great teachers give something of themselves that we take with us for the rest of our lives. It is one of the most rewarding aspects of being a teacher.

But great teachers do not get the recognition they deserve. Their contributions are so great, they ought to have an entire week devoted to their achievement, and so they have. This is their week, and I join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the wonderful gifts teachers have brought to all of us during their teaching careers.

Teaching is a noble profession, and it is an honor for me to salute all those great teachers who are proud to have made teaching their passion and their life's work.

WIC—MORE THAN JUST FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IT IS GOOD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 25 years of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, what is widely known as WIC. WIC is not just a program that makes a lot of sense, it saves millions of dollars, too.

Every WIC dollar spent for pregnant women results in the savings to the Medicaid program of anywhere between \$2 and \$4. Well-fed mothers and children are healthier people. Children who eat a nutritious diet grow up to be stronger, better-adjusted adults. WIC allows high-risk young families to properly feed their children during their critical months of growth and development. WIC helps to assure normal childhood growth, reduces early childhood anemia, increases immunization rates, improves access to pediatric health care and prepares children for learning.

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What more can we ask for? It truly proves the maxim that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. WIC, it is a good program for America.

HOLBROOKE'S HONORARIA

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to what President Clinton promised would be the most ethical administration in the history of our Nation.

The Washington Times lead story today details how special envoy to the President, Richard Holbrooke, in the middle of critical negotiations with Yugoslav President Milosevic in 1998,

broke off those talks to deliver two speeches in which he was paid \$40,000.

Now, there is a pesky Federal ethics rule that says for government employees, including unpaid presidential appointees, they are barred from accepting side compensation that relates to the employee's official duties.

Quote, just as his talks reached what Mr. Holbrooke said was a dangerous moment, he flew to Athens to give a speech about Kosovo, picking up \$16,000 in payment. A few months later, Mr. Holbrooke did the same thing, abandoning diplomatic efforts in the middle of an air-strike deadline to deliver a speech in New York for \$24,000.

Mr. President, honestly, based upon past comments, he would be the perfect candidate to be Ambassador to the United Nations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WIC ON 25 YEARS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, children are 25 percent of this country's population but they are 10,000 percent of our future. There is no better way to invest in our future than to make sure that every child gets good nutrition and health care, right from the very start. That is what the WIC program does, and that is what they have been doing for 25 years.

At WIC clinics, low income, at-risk pregnant women get healthy foods, nutrition, education and access to health services. The outcome is strong, healthy babies. WIC stays with the new mother after her baby is born, helping to form good eating habits, health habits and a lifetime of good habits. For every \$1.00 we spend on WIC, we save \$3.50 in future costs for medical care, income support and special education.

Talk about a good investment in our future, talk about WIC. Congratulations, WIC, on this anniversary of 25 years, and thanks for strengthening America's future.

THE POLICY OF NOT USING FOOD AS A WEAPON IS GOOD POLICY

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, there is no more fundamental need of human beings than the need for food and medicine. For years, our country has had a policy of imposing unilateral economic sanctions on nations of the world with which we disagree, nations like Iran and Libya and North Korea and many others.

If one is a farmer in America, this policy has hurt American agricultural exports, especially if other nations of the world do not impose such sanctions and are free to trade with such enemy nations.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 212, a bill which lifts sanctions on food and medicine so that we can sell our commodities to these nations, subject to the President reinstating those sanctions if doing so is in the national security interest.

Last week, the President, by administrative order, lifted sanctions on food and medicine to Iran, Libya and Sudan. This can result in the likely sale of \$500 million in wheat sales to American agriculture. The policy of not using food as a weapon is good policy, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 212.

BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is Brain Tumor Awareness Week. Each year 100,000 people in the United States will be diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumor. Brain tumors are the second leading cause of cancer death for children under 19, and the third leading cause of cancer death for young adults ages 20 to 39.

Brain tumors attack the essence of the individual. They attack the control center for thought, emotion and movement. There are over 100 different types of brain tumors, making effective treatment very complicated. Currently, there is no cure for most malignant brain tumors. Only 37 percent of men and 52 percent of women survive 5 years following the diagnosis of a primary benign or malignant brain tumor.

Congress needs to appropriate increased funding for the National Institutes of Health and advocate for a strong investment in brain tumor research. We also need Federal legislation that gives patients access to clinical trials and other therapies that are not approved yet by the Food and Drug Administration. I urge more research for brain tumors and more funding for the NIH.

SUPPORT BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT AND ITS EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to be considering bankruptcy reform legislation, and I rise in strong support of it. In 1998 we had studies that showed that at least \$3 billion was written off in bankruptcy by wealthy debtors who could have afforded to pay it back.

More and more wealthy Americans are using the bankruptcy system to buy a throwaway lifestyle that they cannot afford, then expecting hard-working Americans who pay their bills each month to pick up the tab. That is not right, and Congress needs to do something about it.

I also want to address some information that I think is not true by some of the opponents of this legislation, dealing with child support payments. Under the current system, child support and alimony payments rank seventh on the list of priority payments in a bankruptcy proceeding, behind such things as attorney fees; seventh.

This legislation moves those critical family obligations up to the top of the list. Women and children come first under H.R. 833, the bankruptcy protection reform bill that we are going to be considering today. It is time to require personal responsibility. Support H.R. 833.

RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY, THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the 3,417 men and women who have placed their lives on the line for their country, have taken risks above and beyond the call of duty and, because of their extraordinary bravery and action during crisis, have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

Yesterday I introduced the National Medal of Honor Memorial Act. This bill designates the memorial being built at the Riverside National Cemetery as a national memorial. Since this will be the only publicly accessible memorial honoring all 3,417 recipients of the Medal of Honor at a single location, I think it is only fitting to identify it as a national memorial.

Riverside National Cemetery is the ideal location for this memorial. There are two Medal of Honor recipients buried there; 102 recipients are originally from the State of California. At its capacity, the cemetery will inter approximately 1,400,000 persons, making it the largest national cemetery in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the strong support from my colleagues. Seventy of my colleagues have decided to be original cosponsors of this; 100 percent of the California delegation, and the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I look forward to its passage.

PAYDAY BORROWER PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today I am here to introduce the Payday Borrower Protection Act of 1999.

Payday loan companies are springing up all over the country. Payday loan companies are cannibalistic. They are akin to loansharking. These companies provide short-term loans with min-

imum credit checks to consumers who are in desperate need of cash.

The interest on these loans are unconscionably high, usually running from 261 percent to 913 percent annually. It is not uncommon for a consumer to have borrowed, say, \$100 and within a year to be forced to repay \$900 to a payday loan company.

My bill regulates and imposes some rational criteria on these loans. My bill caps annual interest fees at 36 percent and prohibits any payday lender from refinancing or rolling over any loans. My bill also sets a minimum national standard for State payday loan laws.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Payday Borrower Protection Act of 1999.

WITH THE PROSPECT OF MULTI- TRILLION DOLLAR BUDGET SUR- PLUSES, WE SHOULD PASS A TAX CUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Congress faces the prospect of multitrillion dollar surpluses, budget surpluses, over the next 15 years. That is good news. As one might expect, the response to this good news has been sharply divided.

Liberals, and President Clinton, have come forward with new Washington spending programs. Republicans, on the other hand, have called for saving Social Security, cutting taxes and paying down the national debt.

It is almost the law of nature that money left in Washington will be spent. Therefore, I think we should pass a tax cut as soon as possible, before the big spenders here in Washington get their hands on it.

Let us hope that Congress and the President get it right. Work together and save Social Security, cut taxes and pay down the national debt. It is very, very important for America's future to do that.

SALUTE TO WIC ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of one of our Nation's most valuable programs, Women, Infants and Children, more popularly known as WIC.

The WIC program has been serving women and children across America for 25 years. The valuable service provided by WIC includes nutritional counseling, the supply of supplemental nutritional foods to children and an excellent health referral system.

WIC continues to be effective in improving the health of pregnant women, new mothers and infants. Studies show that WIC participants are more likely

to have full term pregnancy, lower medical costs, higher birth weight babies and lower infant mortality rates.

On this anniversary of 25 years, I salute WIC for providing such outstanding service. We must all remember a healthy start is a great start.

ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS RESULT IN POVERTY FOR FUTURE AMERICAN WORK- ERS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I see a lot of students in our gallery today. Mr. Speaker, I would like to report that our Social Security task force meeting yesterday that examined the consequences of doing nothing with Social Security resulted in the headline that antipoverty programs for seniors result in poverty for future American workers. We need to stop spending the Social Security Trust Fund for other government programs.

Our taxes today are higher than they have ever been in most of our history, even through World War II. We have heard a lot of good government spending programs from the speakers this morning that would mean raiding the Social Security Trust Fund or increasing taxes.

I just plead with my colleagues that if there are other good programs, they need to be justified on the basis of increasing taxes to pay for those programs or cutting other government spending to pay for those programs, but stop raiding the Social Security trust fund. We are already facing a \$7½ trillion unfunded liability to maintain Social Security. We can't afford to continue to make the situation worse.

CONSTRUCTIVE OWNERSHIP TRANSACTIONS

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to shut down a tax avoidance scheme available only to a few wealthy and sophisticated investors. Under current law, if one invests in a hedge fund they pay tax every year and those profits are taxed at a higher short-term capital gains rate, but if one places that same money in a derivative wrapped around a hedge fund, they pay tax only at the end of the contract and are taxed at a lower long-term capital gains rate.

My bill states that if an investor indirectly owns a financial asset like a hedge fund through a derivative, he cannot get more long-term capital gain than if he owned the investment directly. In addition, there is an interest charge to offset the additional benefit of deferral.