

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.

□ 1030

This tax shelter is not available to average workers or even to average investors. It is available only to the very wealthy, so that they can avoid paying taxes.

It is important to shut down these tax shelters as we uncover them. Otherwise, we undermine the faith people have in our voluntary tax system. The Committee on Ways and Means is looking at tax shelters this year. This should be the number one issue on our list.

A FOCUS ON CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we focus on our children. I am delighted to congratulate the WIC program on its 25th anniversary, a program that has provided nourishment for women and children and infants, a program that has helped so many to be able to have the basic nourishment that allows them to go to schools and then be educated. Our children are our greatest asset.

Then I would like to note that this is Asthma Awareness Day and Month. I hope that we realize the importance of more research to help cure asthma. So many of our children and, yes, so many of our citizens are impacted by that.

Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite and acknowledge that the Congressional Children's Caucus will be holding a hearing this afternoon at 2154 Rayburn on the crisis of school violence, how do we help our children. We want solutions and not accusations.

We hope to develop a mental health system for children, where children can be referred and helped and rehabilitated, because in fact they are our precious resource. We will be listening to children today, we will be listening to mental health experts on the crisis of school violence and how do we help our children. We hope the children will come and let us hear them today.

Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for several reasons. Today is the 25th Anniversary of the WIC Program and it is also Asthma Awareness Day. Also today, the Congressional Children's Caucus, which I am the chair, will have a hearing today on the psychology of school violence. I hope My Colleagues will join me for the hearing.

The WIC Program, or the Women, Infant and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Program, has been providing nutrition education and diet counseling since 1972. It is a federally funded program designed for low-income pregnant women, mothers and their children who face nutritional risk.

WIC helps mothers make infant feeding choices and provides breastfeeding support, children's growth checkups and referrals for other health services. WIC also gives mothers one-on-one instructions for making healthy meals for their families.

Families on WIC receive monthly supplies for food like milk, eggs, cereal and juice. This

is an important program for mothers and children in need, and I am happy to salute them today on their 25th Anniversary.

Today is also Asthma Awareness Day. Asthma is a serious condition that causes difficulty in breathing and it affects children and adults. An estimated 4.8 million children under 18 have asthma and many more have undiagnosed asthma.

Asthma is the leading chronic illness in children and it is the leading cause of school absenteeism. Hospitalizations due to asthma are disproportionately high for inner-city children, particularly for children of color. Each year, 600 children die from asthma and 150,000 are hospitalized.

Today, there will be screenings for asthma and allergies and I urge everyone to get tested. As it is now allergy season, this is the time to find out how serious your allergies may be and also how to relieve your symptoms.

Finally, today there will be a hearing sponsored by the Congressional Children's Caucus on the issue of school violence. We have a panel of mental health experts who will discuss the need for mental health services in schools. We will also have a panel of students who will discuss their fears about violence in school. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 359, nays 41, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 108]
YEAS—359

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Arney
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Bass
Bateman
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berry
Biggart

Bilbray
Bilirakis
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert

Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Clayton
Clement
Coble
Coburn
Collins
John
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cook
Cooksey
Cox
Coyne
Cramer

Crane
Crowley
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoefel
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inlee
Isakson
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich

Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecza
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalfe
Mica
Millender
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy

Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Salmon
Sanchez
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Schakowsky
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Siskis
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Sununu
Talent
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey