

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to thank all those who serve the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Since 1979, more than 250 members of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department and the Office of the Sheriff have received Gold, Silver or Bronze Medals of Valor. I recognize the professionalism of the men and women who are honored here today. I applaud the heroic efforts the members of the Fairfax Fire and Rescue make on our behalf as we extend our appreciation to these exceptional individuals today. I commend these individuals and their colleagues for their undaunted commitment to the citizenry.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ENTITLED, "FAMILY VALUES TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2000"

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation, H.R. 3612 that will repeal certain hidden taxes imposed on our American families and values.

In his latest report to Congress, our country's National Taxpayer Advocate, W. Val Oveson, urges us to eliminate hidden taxes in the Internal Revenue Code. The National Taxpayer Advocate, unlike any top official at the IRS or Treasury, reports his findings and recommendations directly to Congress without review or revision within the agency or department. In one of our greatest legislative achievements, the "IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998," Congress strengthened the National Taxpayer Advocate's independence from the IRS in order to help address taxpayers' concerns.

The National Taxpayer Advocate can now recommend legislative changes to the tax code in cases where current law creates inequitable treatment or where change will alleviate barriers to compliance. For the second year in a row, Mr. Oveson has reported that tax code complexity tops the list of taxpayer concerns. Accordingly, the National Taxpayer Advocate has singled out two hidden taxes in the Internal Revenue Code that should be repealed.

The first of these hidden taxes is the "phaseout of itemized deductions and personal exemptions." With regard to this hidden tax on our American families and values, our country's National Taxpayer Advocate states that "[n]o other tax issues are taken so personally. As a result, the phaseouts of itemized deductions and the personal exemptions are often seen by taxpayers as being especially unfair, creating a certain amount of resentment and cynicism. "[A]llowing all taxpayers to retain these deductions and exemptions would go a long way toward reducing burden, increasing fairness, and restoring faith in the tax system."

The second of these hidden taxes is the "Alternative Minimum Tax" or AMT. With regard to this hidden tax on our American families and values, our country's National Taxpayer Advocate describes the AMT as "unnecessarily complex and burdensome," effectively operating "as a separate or 'parallel' tax system with many rules that differ from the reg-

ular tax system." Many taxpayers are required to make several computations just to see if they must figure out their tax under the AMT. Additionally, AMT presents significant compliance and administrative problems for the IRS. Finally, many taxpayers are subject to the AMT "without being aware of its existence. Often, the way that many individuals first hear of the Alternative Minimum Tax is when they received a notice from the IRS. Outright elimination of the Alternative Minimum Tax would do a great deal for simplification and burden reduction of the tax system (emphasis added)"

I strongly support the work and conclusions of the National Taxpayer Advocate. My bill will repeal both of these hidden taxes on American families and values.

Additionally, my bill will go one step further and repeal another hidden tax—the phaseout of the Child Tax Credit. In 1997, Republicans in Congress enacted legislation to return \$500 in tax credits for every child under the age of 17. Unfortunately, budget constraints and opponents of this pro-family idea forced us to phaseout the Child Tax Credit in a complicated and unfair manner. We should not penalize any family who chooses to have children. All children should be treated equally as they are in the eyes of their Maker. Consequently, my bill will repeal this arbitrary hidden tax on American families.

Finally, these three hidden taxes also worsen the marriage penalty. The American Institute of Certified Public Accounts (AICPA) has listed these three hidden taxes in its list of "ways the tax code may drive up a tax bill when a married couple files together." It is just not right that our tax code forces married couple to pay more in taxes than two people living together.

I urge my colleagues to join me in repealing these hidden taxes and restore freedom to American families.

THE ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a bill I introduced, H.R. 3560, the Online Privacy Protection Act of 2000. This bill would protect Internet consumers by ensuring they are informed when a website operator is collecting personal information about them, and further providing a process for consumers to "opt out" of allowing companies to use their personal information for marketing and other purposes.

We all know the Internet is one of the most exciting and explosive developments of our time. In fact, many people have called the advent of the Internet the second Industrial Revolution. With the explosion of E-commerce in America and around the world, people are buying everything from food to stocks over the Internet. To allow this exciting sector of our economy to reach its true potential, I believe we must ensure that consumers privacy is not neglected in the process.

There is absolutely no question that the Internet is one of the most valuable and fastest growing forces in our economy. Along with the Internet and so many other advances in

technologies, it is easier than ever before to collect information and data and send it around the world with a simple click of a mouse.

As a result of the growth of the Internet and the ease with which website operators have the ability to collect information, it is important that all the players in the Internet industry take proactive steps to protect their consumers. If this is done effectively by the industry itself, perhaps legislation will not be needed.

While the Internet grows at a breathtaking pace, so do consumer concerns about their privacy online. I have heard from many of my constituents in writing, by e-mail, by telephone and at town hall meetings on this issue. Quite frankly, they are shocked by the reports about information being collected about them without their knowledge, let alone the frightening reports that much of the information that is collected is not secure. We do not want consumers to lose confidence in the Internet.

Consumers should have the opportunity to know what information is collected about them, how it is collected and for what purposes. Net surfers want and deserve assurance that personal information that is provided at a website is not misused. That is what H.R. 3560 would do without curtailing the exciting growth and potential of the Internet.

LEGISLATION MODIFYING THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, throughout my 25 plus years in Congress, I have been a very strong supporter of the school lunch program. It was one of the highlights of my career when we passed the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 last Congress. To build upon all the great work we have done, today I am introducing legislation to modify the school lunch program to ensure that recent cuts made to the program are restored.

During its history, the National School Lunch Act has not only provided nutritious meals to our nation's children, it has assisted the agriculture community through commodity purchases.

The Secretary of Agriculture uses funds authorized by the School Lunch Act to purchase entitlement commodities, such as fruits and vegetables, which are needed by our nation's schools in order to provide balanced meals. In addition, schools receive bonus commodities that the Secretary purchases in order to reduce a surplus in the marketplace. Both the children and the agriculture community benefit from these purchases.

Since the 103rd Congress, 12 percent of the cost of school lunches was to be in the form of agricultural products purchased for schools. Last session, this law was modified at the suggestion of the Clinton Administration to allow the 12 percent commodity requirement to be met through a combination of entitlement and bonus commodities. The savings achieved as a result of this revision were used to help fund the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. As a result, schools will be receiving fewer commodities because

bonus commodities will be counted as part of the 12 percent commodity requirement rather than as additional commodities over and above this requirement. At the same time, purchases of agriculture commodities will also be reduced.

Mr. Speaker, there are no winners here. Schools lose, kids lose, and farmers lose. The bill I am introducing today will restore the original 12 percent commodity requirements and clarify that the only commodities to be used to fulfill this requirement are those authorized under the School Lunch Act. The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 should not have been funded at the expense of an important program like the School Lunch Act.

For our children, our schools and our farmers, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those of the Fairfax County Police Department who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 22nd Annual Valor Awards today, Friday, February 11, 2000. The Chamber will recognize law enforcement and emergency response personnel for their acts of bravery. A Valor Award is the highest honor Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety employees.

The Valor Award recipients are selected by a committee that designates honorees for a Lifesaving Award, a Certificate of Valor, or a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. This year, it is expected that 37 agency personnel will be honored for acts of bravery that demonstrated extraordinary ingenuity, judgement or zeal.

Mr. Speaker, I would be honored today to read the names of the 22 officers of the Fairfax County Police Department who will receive the 1999 Valor Awards. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Police Officer First Class John E. Alford, Police Officer First Class Timothy C. Benedict, Second Lieutenant Michael E. Proffitt, Police Officer First Class Michael Twomey, Police Officer First Class Jeffrey L. Gossett, Sergeant Bruce K. Blechl, Police Officer First Class Scott C. Bates, Police Officer First Class Ronald H. Burke, and Police Officer First Class Aniello A. Desantis; Certificate of Valor: Police Officer First Class John R. Chadwick, Police Officer First Class Frank J. Stecco, Public Safety Communicator III Wrentree S. Kelly, Sergeant Mark S. Culin, and Police Officer First Class Christopher M. Kindelan; Bronze Medal of Valor: Auxiliary Police Officer Gary D. Treadway, Police Officer First Class Robert M. Cornell, Police Officer William A. Giger, Master Police Officer James D. Call, Lieutenant Scott C. Durham, Second Lieutenant Jack T. Hardin, and Police Officer First Class Donald E. McAuliffe; Silver Medal of Valor: Master Police Officer Robert Wahl.

In 1989, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce established a special fund to

award scholarships to the children of Valor Award medal winners who wish to pursue post-secondary education. Support of the Scholarship Fund demonstrates the sincere appreciation of our County's public safety officers. Over the past ten years, more than one hundred generous businesses and individuals have contributed to this worthy fund, and numerous scholarships have been awarded.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to thank all those who serve the Fairfax County Police Department. Since 1979, more than 250 members of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Office of the Sheriff have received Gold, Silver or Bronze Medals of Valor. I recognize the professionalism of the men and women who are honored here today. I applaud the heroic efforts the members of the Fairfax Police Department make on our behalf as we extend our appreciation to these exceptional individuals today. I commend these individuals and their colleagues for their undaunted commitment to the citizenry.

TRIBUTE TO GENEVA BERRIEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Brooklyn's finest entrepreneurs, Geneva Berrien.

A native of Texas, Mrs. Berrien migrated to Brooklyn, New York after spending several years in Chicago. She worked for Gimbel's Department Store before pursuing a career in hat design. She graduated from McDowell School of Design in 1948 after completing a course in millinery design. Geneva became one of Brooklyn's most popular and outstanding milliners known for her unique designs throughout New York State and the nation. It was not a "Hat Show" until "Geneva's Originals" were shown. "Geneva's Millinery Shop" was opened in 1950 and remained a lucrative business until 1968 when she decided to operate from her home on a part-time basis. Even today, her hats are still being worn and are just as stylish as when Geneva created them.

Geneva Berrien is also known for her long service as a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church which she joined in 1947. She was active in the Victory Club and the Business and Professional Women's Division of the Missionary Society. Additionally, she served as a teacher in the Cornerstone Vacation Bible School; she participated as a Board Member of the Isaiah Whitehurst School and the Cornerstone Day Care Center. Geneva also was a faithful member of the Senior Choir and Chairlady of Women's Day in 1964. As a member of the National Council of American Baptist Women, she received citations for outstanding Christian work in the church and the Standard Leadership and Curriculum Card for her involvement in Christian Education Week activities in 1970, 1972, and 1975.

Please join me in honoring one of Brooklyn's pioneering businesswomen, Geneva Berrien.

HONORING MARCUS HOUSTON OF DENVER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Marcus Houston, a young student from Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service to his community. Mr. Houston was named one of Colorado's top honorees in the 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Marcus developed the "Just Say Know" program that educates middle level students about what is necessary to succeed academically, socially, and athletically in high school. Noticing the numbers of fellow students who were ineligible for participation in athletics due to poor grades or conduct, Marcus developed a motivational presentation based on his own successes. The "Just Say Know" program demonstrates how a student's personal presentation can influence his or her performance both in school and on the field. In addition to his motivational speeches, Mr. Houston developed an essay contest, which he funds out of his own pocket, that encourages students to write about what success means to them and how they plan to personally succeed.

Mr. Houston should be extremely proud to have been selected from such a large group of volunteers. I heartily applaud him for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. Marcus has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in our communities and provide us with tremendous promise for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TATTNALL SQUARE ACADEMY ONE ACT PLAY, GISA STATE AAA CHAMPIONS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Tattnall Square Academy drama students and director Brent Young for recently winning the GISA State AAA title for their One Act Play production Children of Eden. This fine group of young people from Macon, Georgia, located in the 8th Congressional District, deserves great recognition for their hard work, artistic talents, and success.

Tattnall has won the GISA State AAA title for One Act Play for the last two years, in 1998 and 1999, and this marks the third consecutive year Tattnall has won the Region Title for One Act Play.

Drama Director Brent Young was awarded 1999 Best Director at the November competition. Over the past few years, under his direction and leadership, Tattnall's drama program