

expansion. Why not implement a tax limitation standard on the federal level so that this same effect can be felt by all Americans?

There are a number of important issues which require a two-thirds vote by Congress such as amending the Constitution, overriding a Presidential veto; two events which clearly require the parties of Congress to come to a consensus. The decision to increase taxes is an important issue and it too should require more than a majority, it should require a consensus.

When Congress votes yes to increase taxes, it has an effect on everyone. When I was elected to represent the second district of Nebraska, one of my priorities was to fight against any and all attempts by the federal government to take more money away from my constituents. Last year many of my colleagues and I voted to cut \$792 billion dollars in taxes for hard-working Americans, a great effort which was vetoed by the President. Unfortunately, we had no hope of overriding the President's veto because we could not muster the two-thirds votes necessary from the House. Any attempt by members of Congress to cut taxes is put in jeopardy by the President's ability to veto. We should require any increase in taxes to receive overwhelming support of Congress—a two-thirds vote.

Many of the major tax increases levied on Americans have passed without a two-thirds vote. In 1982, Congress passed the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act which cost the taxpayer \$214 billion dollars without a two-thirds vote; Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 totaling \$40 billion dollars without a two-thirds vote; Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 for \$25 billion dollars without a two-thirds vote; Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 for a whopping \$137 billion dollars without a two-thirds vote. Finally, Congress passed one of the largest tax increases in American history, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 for \$275 billion dollars by 1 vote not a two-thirds vote. I believe that I have made my point. If you are going to send Americans a tax bill, you better have the support from two-thirds of Congress.

The economy of the United States is at a fiscally sound level, but our taxes remain to be the highest they have been since World War II. As Congress, our main goal is to keep our economy sound and contribute to the current prosperity. Preventing future tax increases will help us in this mission. One way to accomplish this is to require a two-thirds vote from Congress before making a decision that could alter our lives.

Federal tax laws have numerous unintended consequences on Americans. Congress needs to make decisions in the best interest of Americans by ensuring that any federal tax increase is supported by more than just a simple majority. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. SHIRLEY SCHMITT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Ms. Shirley Schmitt, who is the fifth-grade

teacher at St. Jacob Elementary School. Shirley was named the school Recycling Coordinator of the Year, otherwise known as the "Recycling Queen" because of her creative ways of cleaning up the world around her.

As a former teacher, I know that you have to be inventive to grab and then maintain the kid's attention. Her recycling program is much more than separating glass and plastic, she makes it fun. Let me share with you some of Shirley's ideas: using pencil shavings as mulch or using 6 pack plastic rings along with a shish-kabob stick to make flowers.

When you are creative in the classroom, and make projects fun, you dare a child to dream. That is the magic of teaching. Thank you Shirley.

TRIBUTE TO MS. AMANDA NODINE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I received a letter two weeks ago from a constituent, The Honorable Lucille Craine, who is supervisor of the town of Victory, New York which is in my district. Included in the letter was an essay, written by Amanda Nodine, a thirteen-year-old student who attends Red Creek Central School. Amanda's essay, titled "Our Flag, Why Should We Respect It?", has received various acclamations, including recognition by the Wolcott Elk Lodge and other American Legion organizations.

I am very proud of Amanda for her patriotism and loyalty to our country. She exhibits discipline, sensitivity, and love for her country while also representing her school and her community. I am equally proud of Red Creek High School, the parents, and administrators who are so supportive of this outstanding young citizen.

I have included her essay for the record.

OUR FLAG, WHY SHOULD WE RESPECT IT?

(By Amanda Nodine)

The American Flag has many reasons why it should be respected. Yet many people don't understand the meanings of the American flag.

Many Americans fought for our country risking their lives. People died so they could save our country. The soldiers wanted all of us to be free now, in the future, and back then. The American flag shows honor and support for the people who fought, died, and suffered, all for our country.

The flag has many meanings. The flag symbolizes independence, freedom, justice, America, and democracy. The flag has 50 white stars on a navy blue background, and 13 alternating red and white stripes. The 13 strips represent the original 13 colonies. It has 50 stars for all of the 50 states. The flag's colors are red, white, and blue. Red standing for heroism, zeal, and faith; white for hope, purity, and cleanliness of life; and blue the color of heaven, in honor of God, loyalty, sincerity, justice, and truth.

We show patriotism when we salute the flag, fly it on/at important events, government buildings, schools, American legions, Elks Clubs, and other important buildings.

Without our flag we wouldn't be a free country. We could be owned by another country and ruled by one too.

The flag should be respected because it is an important monument and also because it

symbolizes the freedom of our country. Respect the American flag!

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS MILLER OF MERIDIANVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Mr. Thomas Miller of the Madison County Sheriffs Department. Mr. Miller goes above and beyond the duties of a public servant. Mr. Miller works the night shift with the Sheriff's Department, but still finds time to lead a group of Tiger Scouts.

Mr. Miller has dedicated himself to this group of eager young men and has taught them by example about a life of citizenship and patriotism. The Tiger Scouts respect Mr. Miller and the job he does everyday to protect them and their families, often without proper recognition or gratitude.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his exemplary role as a leader in our community. Children in this country need more role models like Mr. Miller. I believe that this honor is fitting for someone who has given so much of himself for this community and this nation.

I want to wish Mr. Miller and his family best wishes and express to him my gratitude on behalf of the United States Congress for his selfless work with the Tiger Scouts in our community.

A CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL GUIDE DOG DAY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, thousands of individuals around the world will celebrate International Guide Dog Day. This day was brought to my attention last November, when I received a letter from a constituent of mine, Ms. Christine de Angeli. She is a junior at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Pottomac, MD, and has spent a great deal of time as a foster puppy raiser. She believes that having sight is a gift, and feels that it is important for her to donate her time toward improving mobility for those with visual impairments. At her urging, the State of Maryland will issue a Governor's Proclamation recognizing International Guide Dog Day.

Christine is currently raising her second dog guide puppy. Often when she is out with the puppy, she encounters people who are unaware of the opportunity to become a foster puppy raiser, oftentimes they are very interested in learning more about how they can help. These volunteers are great ambassadors for our country's dog guide program.

Just by happenstance Mr. Speaker, a new staff person in my office is a dog guide user. Watching her work her dog guide on the Metro, in meetings, and around the office has given me a much greater appreciation for the value of these dog guides and how they enable one to keep working despite the loss of vision.

Ms. de Angeli feels strongly that in this country we should have a day to recognize the work of dog guides, their handlers, the families, and many organizations such as the Lions Club that support dog guide schools.

Dog guides change the lives of people who are blind or have low vision. Training dog guides takes both volunteer time and private donations of funds. The average cost to successfully train a blind person and their dog guide is about \$25,000. Dog guide organizations rely on foster puppy raisers to raise future dog guides from the age of eight weeks until they start their formal guide training at 18 months. As International Guide Dog Day is acknowledged, many more families will become aware of the opportunity to be foster puppy raisers and will hopefully contribute time and energy to help their fellow citizens.

I salute these selfless individuals and marvelous animals for their contributions to our society.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH HOJNICKI,
MEMBER OF THE CENTURY OF
THE MINQUADALE FIRE COM-
PANY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I, as a member of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus, honor and pay tribute to a leader in the firefighting community—Joseph Hohnicki of the Minquadale Fire Company. Joseph Hohnicki is an outstanding, dedicated and caring Delawarean with an abundance of accomplishments in this field. On behalf of myself and the citizens of the First State, I would like to honor this outstanding individual and extend to him our congratulations on being chosen Minquadale Fire Company's Member of the Century.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the volunteer fire service in Delaware. It has been my privilege to have had the opportunity on many occasions to speak about this institution on the floor of the House of Representatives. These unselfish men and women provide their communities with essential volunteer public service. The volunteer fire service is as old as our nation. Benjamin Franklin was our first volunteer fire chief. It is tradition in the volunteer fire service for these men and women to not seek praise for what they do as volunteer firefighters. However, it is my privilege to praise Joseph Hohnicki, a man who has devoted the better part of his life to the volunteer fire service.

Today, I recognize Joseph Hohnicki of the Minquadale Delaware Fire Company. On Saturday, April 29, during the Seventy-fifth Annual Banquet of the Minquadale Fire Company, Joseph Hohnicki was named Member of the Century. He has provided more than 50 years of service to his community and the State of Delaware. He has done so in a manner that brings great distinction to the Minquadale community.

Family, friends and fellow firefighters can now take a moment to truly appreciate the world of difference Joseph Hohnicki has brought to the firefighting community. He has served for many years as Fire Chief and then

President of the Minquadale Fire Company. He later earned a statewide reputation in Delaware for his service as President of the New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association. Today, while past the age of seventy, Joseph Hohnicki continues to respond to fire service calls to protect his community.

Joseph Hohnicki believes in young people. His firm yet friendly manner has influenced and encouraged young men and women to become involved in the fire service. For many it was an alternative to the street and possibly getting into trouble. Joseph Hohnicki's leadership and guiding hand helped create many fine firefighters and officers while he taught civic responsibility to two generations of Minquadale's youth. Mr. Speaker, with his wife Irene at his side, the Hohnicki family proudly and unselfishly contributes everyday to the quality of life at home in their community and our entire state.

As Minquadale celebrates their Diamond Anniversary, I join with them as they honor and pay tribute to a man whom they have called their "greatest member." His selfless commitment to the cause of volunteer firefighters will have a permanent place in Delaware's volunteer fire service history. I am proud to call Joseph Hohnicki my friend.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
DAVID B. RABON

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer says, in part, "I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and will always place their needs above my own . . ." These words certainly seem to be the sentiments of the many men and women of my home island who have distinguished themselves in all branches of military service. Indeed, military men from Guam have won praises for their loyalty, their patriotism, their commitment to duty, and their dedication to the mission for more than 300 years.

In the 17th century, when the Spaniards recruited men from Guam as sailors in the Spanish fleet; in World Wars I and II, when the American military worked shoulder to shoulder with Guamanians both as civilian volunteers and uniformed personnel; in the Korean war and the Vietnam conflict; in other conflicts with American involvement since then; and most recently, in the Persian Gulf war, the record established and maintained by military men and women from Guam is a long and very proud one. This continues today.

As we enter the new millennium, another son of Guam is carrying on the tradition. It gives me great pride to say that the new commandant of the U.S. Army Aviation Center Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Fort Rucker, AL, is Command Sgt. Maj. David B. Rabon, the son of Jesus Bontugan and Rosa Benavente Rabon. Born in my home village of Sinajana on August 15, 1949, Sergeant Major

Rabon enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1972, attended basic training at Fort Ord, CA, and advanced individual training [AIT] at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD, graduating from the AIT as an aircraft fire control repairman. In the 27 years he has spent in the Army, Sergeant Major Rabon has held numerous positions of leadership including squad leader; unit nuclear biological and chemical NCO; battalion aviation maintenance NCOIC; platoon sergeant; company first sergeant; service school instructor; service school branch chief; battalion and brigade command sergeant major.

Sergeant Major Rabon's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal 9th Award, the National Defense Service Medal w/Star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral "4", the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral "4", the NATO Medal, the Master Aircraft Crewman Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Honorable Order of St. Michael Bronze award.

Command Sergeant Major Rabon's long and distinguished military career was made possible by the support of his wife, Barbara, and their children, David Jr. and Jennifer. The Command Sergeant Major's family bore the difficulties and accepted the challenges posed to military dependents. The Rabon's sacrifices were compounded by the misfortune of losing their son in a motorcycle accident while the family was stationed in Germany in 1995. The loss of a child is most difficult but worse when one is far from home and family.

The Rabons have held together. Without a doubt, the family's unity and strength, in addition to traditional values and the Command Sergeant Major's guidance, have enabled them to endure. The Rabons have been continually dedicated to serving the communities they have come in contact with through the Command Sergeant Major's service. Command Sergeant Major Rabon, himself, has taken special interest in coordinating Asian Pacific American activities.

As the Command Sergeant Major's military career nears conclusion, he and his wife have made plans to retire to Fort Walton Beach, FL. They look forward to living near their daughter, Jennifer, who is a special agent for the Department of Defense at Eglin Air Force Base.

Once again, to Command Sgt. Maj. David Rabon, his wife, Barbara, and daughter, Jennifer, I send best wishes from the people of Guam. It is well known that NCO's are "the backbone of the Army," the leaders of soldiers, I can think of no finer teacher of leadership than a good leader like Command Sgt. Maj. David Rabon. Guam is proud of him and he is a great representative of what our people can do.

THREE GIANTS OF THE LAW

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, criticism of both public and private institutions