

We have a historic opportunity to answer the challenges ahead: to increase economic opportunity for all American families; to provide quality, affordable child care, health care, and long-term care; and to give our children the best education in the world. Working together, we can meet these great challenges and make this new millennium one of ever-increasing promise, hope, and opportunity for all Americans.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 2000.

□ 1700

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The Chair will now recognize one minute requests.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. BRUCE A. PROTHERO, A FALLEN HERO

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

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, today in Reisterstown, Maryland, hundreds of police officers have gathered to pay tribute to another fallen hero. Earlier this week, Sergeant Bruce A. Prothero, a 13-year veteran of the Baltimore County Police Department, said goodbye to his wife and five young children. He went to work his second job, something many police officers must do to support their families.

Shortly after the jewelry store at which Sergeant Prothero was employed opened for business, armed thugs entered the store. While horrified customers were forced to the floor, the Sergeant was held at gunpoint until the robbery was completed. As the thugs made their escape, Sergeant Prothero was gunned down.

Every day, all across America, police officers lay their lives on the line so that we may enjoy the freedoms so many of us take for granted. They are our moms and dads, our brothers and sisters, our sons and daughters. They are our heroes. Sergeant Bruce A. Prothero was just such a hero. But, more importantly, he was a loving father, a devoted husband, a son, and a brother.

May God grant strength to his family, and eternal peace to another fallen hero. Let these words, now a permanent part of the history of this great Nation, serve as an introduction to those who never knew Sergeant Prothero, and as a reminder to those who will miss him so dearly.

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE NASA'S GOALS

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, space program supporters often compete among themselves for programs and funding. I want to do my part to bring everyone together to work towards a common goal, and I recently had an opportunity to visit NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

My district includes Kennedy Space Center, which is a traditional rival for funding with the Johnson Space Center. But I went to Texas to build bridges between our great States, and I want you to know that the people in Houston were very cooperative and great to work with.

I want to thank the Clear Lake Area Economic Development Foundation, Boeing Corporation, GB Tech, United Space Alliance, Lockheed Martin and Barrios Technology for giving me an overview of the local aerospace industry; and I want to especially thank Johnson Space Center Director George Abbey for his hospitality during our trip.

Our human space flight program is the crown jewel of our Nation's space exploration and development efforts; and I am confident that, working together, key States such as Texas, Florida, Alabama, California, as well as Nevada and Washington, can help build the political support for a stronger space program.

BLIND JUSTICE?

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a judicial oversight council ordered an investigation be conducted into the special assignment of criminal cases involving the friends of President Clinton to favorable judges appointed by President Clinton.

Yes, indeed, these were "special" cases. So special, in fact, that the assignment of these cases intentionally bypassed the computer system which normally and randomly assigns criminal cases of all other accused individuals; well, all other accused individuals that are not the personal friends or associates of the President it seems.

Our judicial system must maintain complete impartiality, no matter "who you know" in politics. Whether the judicial system was abused to grant preferential treatment to presidential allies, that will be determined. However, we need to remain vigilant over our justice system to ensure that our laws are applied equally to everyone.

Justice is supposed to be blind. That includes being blind to who your friends are too.

ELIMINATE THE TRICARE PRIME COPAY

(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, I hear from constituents on a daily basis who are concerned about the availability and affordability of military health care. On February 1, I introduced H.R. 3565 to eliminate the copayment requirement for TRICARE Prime and to make military health care more affordable.

Retirees pay an annual enrollment fee for coverage and are also subject to copayment requirements. Active duty families do not pay an enrollment fee, but are subject to copayments. I am concerned that these copays can dramatically increase overall health care costs, particularly for retirees on a fixed income or for younger enlisted personnel. At \$6 to \$12 a visit, these copays quickly erode the real progress Congress made last year in approving a long overdue increase in military pay. Unless we reduce out-of-pocket costs for military personnel, pay raises only help on the margin.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is very good for veterans, it is good news for active duty personnel, it is fair under the circumstances today, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

NATIONAL DONOR DAY 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, organ donation falls into the category of things you never think will affect you, your friend, your neighbor, or your family. It happens to other people. In this Congress alone, there are several Members who have undergone successful organ transplants; and we are thankful that these fine people are here with us today. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) are two of the lucky ones.

My husband, John, was also one of the lucky ones. His successful transplantation not only gave John a new lease on life, but it also has given my children back a father, and me, a loving husband.

Mr. Speaker, though we are not alone, every year thousands of Americans wait anxiously on the organ donation lists, and they are entirely dependent on those kind enough to give. They are entirely dependent on those aware that there is a genuine need.

Today transplantation is extremely successful and people can live productive lives with a transplanted organ. However, because of this technology, even more people have been added to the national waiting list.

Sadly, the number of donors has not grown as fast as the number of people

awaiting an organ transplant. Today there are not enough organs for everyone who needs them. Even with the growing number of transplants performed, on average, there is an increase in the number of patients on the national waiting list every day. Today there are more than 65,000 people awaiting an organ transplant, and at least 11 people die each day while waiting for an organ.

In simple terms, the biggest problem facing transplant patients is the shortage of organs. One way that you can help address this health care crisis is to talk to your friends and families about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

I stand before you today to ask for your help. We need to work together to increase the awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation. I ask you to join us in cosponsoring House Resolution 247, a resolution that recognizes and supports National Donor Day. National Donor Day is organized by Saturn and the United Auto Workers, along with a number of organ foundations, health organizations, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

They have established February 12, 2000, as National Donor Day 2000. This day is dedicated to educating people about the Five Points of Life. This weekend this coalition is again joining forces for the third time to bring us together for a National Donor Day. This is America's largest one-day donation event.

Held just before Valentine's Day, the first two donor days raised a total of 17,000 units of blood, added over 24,000 potential donors to the National Marrow Donor Registry and distributed tens of thousands of organ and tissue pledge cards.

You and I, your friends and families, can participate in this historic event by, one, giving blood or pledging to give blood; two, volunteering with the National Marrow Donor Program; or, three, filling out an organ and tissue donation pledge card and agreeing to discuss the decision with family members.

I would also like to take a moment to thank these people and groups in my district, including Saturn in Gainesville, along with Lifesouth Community Blood Centers in Gainesville and other groups and individuals for pulling together to host a donation event on National Donor Day in the Fifth District of Florida.

I urge everyone to talk to their friends and families about the importance of organ donation and to let others know about this year's National Organ Donor Day. Do not forget, it is February 12, 2000. We are counting on you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

H.R. 3620—THE SECOND CHANCE IRA ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, every Member of this House knows that although we have a Federal budget surplus now, we still face a very low national savings rate. That is because individuals simply do not or cannot save a significant portion of their income. That suggests to me that we must do more to encourage savings, particularly among younger Americans who need to begin building the savings that will help them have a secure retirement.

The difficulties of many younger people were illustrated to me recently by a 38-year-old constituent. He outlined a personal and a generational dilemma.

He mentioned, "When I graduated from school and entered the workforce, I had too many student loans and too little income to put away \$2,000 a year in an IRA. Now I make enough to contribute to an IRA, but I am not allowed to make up for the past 10 years of tax deductible contributions. Why not change the law to let me make up those lost contributions and maximize my IRA?"

Mr. Speaker, that is a very good question, and today I am introducing legislation and will try to give an answer to a good question.

This legislation is called the Second Chance IRA Act of Year 2000, H.R. 3620, and I am pleased that 23 Representatives are joining with me as original cosponsors.

Our bill simply says that if you were eligible to make an IRA contribution in the past and did not make one, you can make the contribution in the current year and take the tax deduction up to a maximum \$2,000. That would be in addition to any current IRA contribution and deduction that you are eligible to make. That means a qualifying individual could deduct a total of \$4,000 a year and a qualifying couple could deduct up to \$8,000 a year.

This legislation offers a powerful incentive for young people to make up their missed opportunities and to save for the future. It also offers an opportunity for women to build a retirement account after being out of the work force to raise a family or to care for a parent. In short, we give a second chance to those who have failed to maximize their savings and who were denied that chance due to circumstances beyond their control.

The Second Chance IRA Act aims to encourage personal responsibility and to maximize personal flexibility in building a secure retirement amid the many insecurities of the 21st Century economy where every person will have multiple careers with multiple employ-

ers. Let us help these young people to move forward with confidence by allowing them to fill in blank spots in their IRA ledger.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members who have joined me today in this effort. I urge all of my colleagues to review the proposal and to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the text of the bill and the original cosponsors.

H.R. 3620

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "____ Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. MAXIMUM IRA DEDUCTION INCREASED BY PORTION OF UNUSED PRIOR DEDUCTION LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 219(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to maximum amount of deduction) is amended to read as follows:

"(A) the sum of—

"(i) \$2,000, and

"(ii) the lesser of—

"(I) \$2,000, or

"(II) the aggregate of the unused deduction limitations (as defined in paragraph (5)) for all prior taxable years, or".

(b) UNUSED DEDUCTION LIMITATION.—Subsection (b) of section 219 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) UNUSED DEDUCTION LIMITATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the unused deduction limitation for any prior taxable year is the excess of—

"(A) the lesser of—

"(i) \$2,000, or

"(ii) the compensation includible in the individual's gross income for such taxable year, over

"(B) the amount of qualified retirement contributions of such individual for such taxable year."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 408(a)(1), 408(b), 408(j), and 408(p)(8) of such Code are each amended by striking "\$2,000" each place it appears and inserting "\$4,000".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

CO-SPONSORS FOR H.R. 3620

Mr. Houghton, Mrs. Johnson of Connecticut, Mr. Gilman, Mr. Bilbray, Mr. Boehlert, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Oxley, Mr. Biggert, Mr. Gallegly, Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Gilchrest, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Hefley, Mr. Istook, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Kuykendall, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Mica, Mr. Paul, Ms. Pryce of Ohio, Mr. Smith of Michigan, Mr. Weldon of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Walden of Oregon.

TRIBUTE TO VOLA LAWSON, A TRULY REMARKABLE AMERICAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly remarkable American, Vola Lawson, who will be retiring on March 1st. For 30 years Vola has been a beacon of dedication to public service.

□ 1715

She has been my mentor, my heroine, and my inspiration. To say that Vola