

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 3405, the Equality for Israel at the United Nations Act that pushed for equality at the U.N. for our closest ally, I am pleased that because of U.S. pressure, Israel has finally achieved a long-deserved, although partial, victory.

Israel for years has been refused entry into one of the 5 regional groupings and thus has been denied full membership at the U.N., although it has been a member since 1949. This has undermined and weakened Israel's ability to function effectively within the international community.

Israel has now finally been granted membership in the Western European and Other Group, WEOG; however, with conditions.

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Many of us will continue to push for Israel's full membership in the WEOG, as well as its membership in its rightful regional grouping, which is the Asian group. Israel has earned it. Few other countries have been tested in this manner and have given so much to protect the very principles upon which the United Nations was founded.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of the abduction of Nocona Lynn Smith when she was 3 years old. Nocona was abducted by her mother, River Burton, and her grandmother, Francis Harris, and taken to Honduras on March 10, 1994.

An hour after the abduction, a State District judge ordered emergency custody for her father, Roy Smith. A warrant for the arrest of Nocona's mother was issued, but charges were dropped when she returned to Texas for a trial.

Nocona, however, did not return with her. She is still in Honduras with her grandmother, and her father's attempts to implement the Hague Convention have been in vein.

Mr. Speaker, Roy Smith and his daughter Nocona have missed out on 6 years of memories that are so important to families in the development of healthy and loving relationships. We cannot allow situations like theirs to continue to happen to any other families.

Congress passed a resolution urging signatories of the Hague Convention to uphold that agreement, and we must use that as a starting point for further action.

Mr. Speaker, we have taken a step in the right direction, and it is my hope that this House will continue that work and help bring our children home.

SUDAN

(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, I rise today to remind my colleagues that today is National Sudan Day. Today there are activities going on in major cities across the United States focusing attention on the ongoing genocide in Sudan.

The Congress needs to make sure that everyone, especially the administration, knows about and acts upon the horrific killings, evictions, and enslaving that is going on, brought about by Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist regime.

The regime is on a deliberate campaign of genocide against the black Christians of southern Sudan. Eyewitnesses have given House and Senate testimony about slavery, torture, rape, mutilation, and killings of Christians.

Mr. Speaker, myself and other House Members have been taking action to bring this genocide into the limelight and to focus our efforts on stopping the brutality. I encourage my colleagues to continue to pressure the White House and the U.S. State Department to take an active part in stopping the genocide in Sudan and bringing the issue to the forefront of American foreign policy.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD BASKIN, AN ORIGINAL AMERICAN ARTIST

(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, I would like to take the opportunity this morning to pay special tribute to an extraordinary individual from my district who passed away last week in Leeds, Massachusetts, after a lengthy illness.

Leonard Baskin was an acclaimed artist with a unique style and vision whose sculptures, woodcuts, prints, and books are celebrated throughout the world. One can find an original Baskin on display in public collections from New York to Rome.

Here in our Nation's Capitol, his remarkable skills helped recreate both the Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge memorials. Quite simply, he has been called one of the finest sculptors of our time.

Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1922, Leonard Baskin was educated at Yale University, served in the Navy, taught art at both SMITH and Hampshire Colleges, and received countless medals and awards.

Mr. Speaker, his brilliant work touched and inspired many. As we mourn his passing today, I urge the Members of this House to join me in honoring this truly American original.

DEATH TAX REPEAL

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the repeal of the death tax. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and have been since I came here some 8 years ago.

Under the guise of making the rich pay their fair share, the death tax discourages savings and investment and has a negative impact on the entire economy. Ironically, those that are most affected by the death tax are not the wealthy. They have the resources to shelter assets. But family-owned businesses, which are often asset-rich and cash poor, cannot meet those requirements.

The death tax hits these businesses especially hard when the owner passes away. The result is that many family-owned businesses cannot survive in the family. Even prior to death, the death tax impacts many businesses, forcing the owners to divert money from productive uses, such as capital investment and job creation, to, guess what, estate tax planning.

So for those who are out there who would vote against the death tax repeal, please think again. They are not hurting the wealthy, they are hurting the little guy.

THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, the so-called Death Tax Elimination Act should be called the Multi-millionaire Protection Act. It does tell America what Republican priorities really are.

Before anything else, the Republican leadership would give a huge, reckless and dangerous backloaded tax cut to only 2 percent of Americans, and more than half of the tax cut goes to the wealthiest one-tenth of 1 percent. That is right, more than half of it would be available to fewer than 60,000 families out of more than 60 million families.

Do the Republicans really believe that the Bill Gates and Steve Forbes and John Corzines need \$25 billion of tax cuts every year? Does anyone listening or watching today believe they need \$25 billion of tax cuts?

But the Republican leadership would give that multi-billion dollar tax cut before limiting class sizes to 18 for 3 million children, before establishing a prescription drug benefit as part of Medicare for 13 million American senior citizens who cannot afford the expense of insurance coverage.

It is a stunning revelation to know that the Republicans' highest priority is a huge tax cut that only benefits the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans. Vote for the substitute and against this giveaway.

TIME TO REPEAL THE DEATH TAX

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in the Democrats' not-ending attempt to create class warfare and their obsession of hate and vengeance towards the successful in our society, they forget the small business owner or the family farmer who has to pay as much as 50 percent of their entire value of their assets when they die.

Just think about a small farm in south Georgia where, for generations, it has been passed down from generation to generation, from mom, dad, mom, dad, daughter and everything, and then the owner dies one day, and in order to pay for the farm, in order to pay for the inheritance, the kids have to sell. Then there is one more strip shopping center.

Imagine one of the many new women entrepreneurs who owns a small business and builds it up over 20 years, and then has to plan her estate. She wants to pass it to your daughter, but guess what, the Democrats do not want her to. They want that to go to Uncle Sam. What does she do? Simply dies, but on the day that she dies, the Democrat party wants her to be visited not just by the undertaker but by the IRS.

It is time to repeal the death tax.

LAWMAKERS SHOULD CORRECT POVERTY AND LACK OF MEDICAL CARE BEFORE ENACTING RECKLESS TAX CUTS

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I love my friend's compassion. This is a Chamber that ought to have compassion. We ought to have compassion for 45 million Americans that do not have health care, for the hundreds of thousands of working families that cannot afford to send their kids to college, for senior citizens who do not have a drug benefit.

If we take the Democratic proposal here, I do not know how many family farms are worth more than \$4 million, but I would say that when we add the cut in the percentage and the \$4 million exemption, that is about as much compassion as we need until we have taken care of the poorest of the poor.

To listen to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, if you have two children, one lives in Beverly Hills and the other one lives on the edge of poverty. What we need to do today is rush and give some more help to the folks in Beverly Hills.

The difference between the two proposals is that the Democratic proposal helps small business, helps farmers, helps people with \$4 million worth of assets, but leaves a little in the Treasury to make sure that senior citizens have social security and Medicare, that maybe we can help more kids get a college education, and maybe some day people in this country can expect health care coverage.

AUSTRALIAN GUN BAN RESULTS: DEADLY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, according to NewsMax.com, the results from the Australian gun ban are in and they are deadly.

Just over a year ago, Australia followed in the footsteps of mother country Great Britain and made a law that totally banned handguns. The gun ban and the confiscation program cost the Australian government more than \$500 million. Sometimes using deadly force, authorities collected 640,381 personal firearms.

Now, the results are in. Since the gun ban, Australia-wide, homicides are up 3.2 percent, assaults are up 8.6 percent, armed robberies are up 44 percent. In the state of Victoria, homicides with firearms are up 300 percent.

Figures over the previous 25 years had shown a steady decrease in armed robberies with firearms, but since the gun ban this has changed for the worse. There has been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults on the elderly.

Australian politicians are on the spot and at a loss to explain this, and so are the liberals here in America. They want to avoid the facts that following a gun ban, crimes go up. If we would enforce the laws that we have on the books, it would make America a safer place.

SUPPORTING THE ELIMINATION OF THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of eliminating the death tax. The death tax is one of the most extreme examples of unfair, inefficient taxation in the United States today. It forces children to sell family businesses and farms to pay the taxes, and at the same time costs the government almost as much to collect as it brings in, in revenue.

In fact, the annual death tax revenues are less than 2 percent of the total Federal receipts, but the economic costs are far higher. This tax thwarts savings and investment, decreases wages and job creation, and dissolves thousands of family-run businesses each year.

The death tax is blatant double taxation aimed directly at small business owners, farmers, and ranchers. These people pay taxes throughout their lives. Then when they die, they are taxed an additional tax on the value of their property.

We should be encouraging businesses like these, not creating obstructions for their existence. Uncle Sam should not come knocking at our door when our loved one dies. I ask my colleagues

to join with me in burying the death tax once and for all.

AMERICA SHOULD INVEST MORE RESOURCES IN CURING PEDIATRIC CANCER

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

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the progress that has been made in childhood cancer is a modern medical miracle. Unlike most miracles, I think this one can be explained. It is widely recognized that the progress in cancer survival rates among children is the result of successful clinical trials, where work from our Nation's laboratories is translated into clinical application.

For children, the standard of care today is to be treated in a clinical trial, and more than 70 percent of children with cancer participate. That compares to only about 3 percent of adults and only 1.5 percent of Medicare patients.

In addition, children are normally treated in centers of excellence by a pediatric oncology specialist and a team of multidisciplinary health care providers, and the rapid dissemination of better treatments through a consortium of major teaching hospitals where new therapies can be tested has benefited the children in these trials.

In many ways, care for children with cancer is the model by which adult cancer can hopefully become better.

ENDING THE DEATH TAX

(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, the Internal Revenue Service burdens the American people with so many taxes it often seems we are taxed on virtually every move we make and every breath we draw.

So it is not surprising to learn that when we stop moving and drawing breath, the IRS taxes us for that, too. Every year, thousands of grieving families are hit unexpectedly with an unfair provision of law called the death tax. This provision of law is so burdensome it prevents more than three out of four small businesses from surviving to the next generation.

Death taxes reduce potential employment opportunities, encourage consumption instead of responsible saving and investing, and undermine the premise of the American dream, which assures that hard, honest work will be rewarded.

Let us show the American people that the American dream is still alive. Let us today vote to repeal the unfair death tax.