

subject to self employment social security taxes—a rate of up to 15 percent of the payment amount.

The CRP has been a great success for this nation. The program provides financial incentives for improving and preserving environmentally sensitive land—taking it out of production and enhancing its environmental benefit. The CRP program increases water quality, wildlife habitat and prevents soil erosion—all factors which have become even more important in light of recent concerns about nonpoint source pollution in our nation's waterways.

The Senate has strongly supported this measure—passing it by unanimous consent earlier this year on the death tax debate—and our Senate leadership has held firm in fighting for this needed provision, but for some reason, our fine colleagues in the House have decided to make an issue of this provision and are trying to strike it from the tax package.

It makes no sense to yield to the House on this matter. The provision, as currently contained in the Senate tax package—will only cost \$292 million over 5 years—but that money and the clarity it brings to our nation's farmers is worth far more than can be said in this time of farm economic stress. This provision allows farmers to plan and better use their resources next year because they will no longer have to wonder or worry about whether the IRS is going to come after them for a conservation tax they didn't know they owed.

Currently, there is confusion over whether CRP income should be taxed owing to a recent court case in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals which overturned a 1998 Tax Court ruling that CRP income is not subject to social security taxes. The Tax Court found and I concur, that because it is a rental payment the government makes in exchange for farmers taking environmentally sensitive land out of production, CRP payments should be treated the same as other contractual agreements made by farmers for land use—and be exempt from self-employment taxes.

The new court ruling creates a discrepancy between active farmers who take part in CRP—which are now subject to the tax—and landowners who do not farm but take part in CRP and are exempt from the tax.

This tax correction is just common sense. Now more than ever we should appreciate the need for conservation and the co-benefits of wildlife, air and water quality it provides. We should not allow a tax to create confusion and a disincentive for farmers to trust and work with government for the good of the environment.

Numerous ag groups support this bill including the National Corn Growers, National Wheat Growers, American Soybean and Cattlemen's Beef Associations—along with the National Farmer's Union and the American Farm Bureau. This is our only opportunity to address this important issue.

In my state of Kansas alone, \$102.7 million in CRP payments were issued in 1999. Are we really going to tell farmers that this money—promised them for conservation purposes—will now be additionally taxed? This would amount to a disincentive for farmers to participate in environmental and conservation programs. Is that the message this Congress really wants to send?

Again, I urge my colleagues to include this important provision—and all the ag tax provisions that have been so carefully worked out and included in the Community Renewal and New Markets Act. We cannot afford to leave this important work undone.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DISABILITY MENTORING DAY

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack has proclaimed October 25 "Iowa Disability Mentoring Day." Today, Iowans around the state will work to raise awareness of the benefits for all of us of increasing employment opportunities for young people with disabilities. And young people with disabilities will learn about job opportunities through on-site work experiences, job shadowing, and other forms of job mentoring.

Many of the mentors will themselves be people with disabilities. All children need role models, and I'm thrilled that through mentoring, children with disabilities will see tangible evidence that their disability does not diminish their ability to participate in the cultural, economic, educational, political, and social mainstream.

It's no surprise that Iowa is celebrating disability mentoring, because we are a leader in the field. This week, Iowa received a Federal grant under the Work Incentives Improvement Act for the Working Together So All Can Work program. This grant will enable more people with disabilities to participate in the workforce.

And Iowa Creative Employment Options, along with the University of Iowa Hospital School, has started up the Healthy and Ready to Work Mentoring Project. The project is run by a mentoring group of young adults with disabilities who have achieved their career goals or are pursuing the education and training they need to reach their goals.

These young men and women are college students, computer programmers, teachers, television directors, social workers, and businesspeople. On top of their studies and jobs, they are working with high school guidance counselors, meeting with students with disabilities, and developing a resource book to help students with disabilities and other students prepare for their careers. And they're planning to do even more in the future.

Mr. President, ten years ago, we passed the Americans with Disabilities

Act. We said no to exclusion, dependence, and paternalism for people with disabilities, and we said yes to inclusion, independence, and empowerment. Iowa Disability Mentoring Day and projects like the Healthy and Ready to Work Mentoring Project and the Working Together So All Can Work Program bring the ADA to life every day by increasing the independence and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities. I thank everyone who is a part of these efforts.●

IN RECOGNITION OF BERKELEY COLLEGE

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I stand today to congratulate Berkeley College for being named the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce Corporate Citizen of the Year. Berkeley College has become a vital link in the Township of Woodbridge and throughout Middlesex County among students, business leaders, and government officials. Cooperation among all three elements has allowed them to form stronger relationships, institutions, and alliances throughout the community.

Berkeley College has fostered this collaborative spirit by hosting a number of informational forums such as the Education Foundation's Educator Institute, Tech Academy 2000, and other useful job training programs. Berkeley College has also sponsored a number of annual public service events like the Mayor's Fun Run, the Mayor's Holiday Stroll in the Park, and Making Strides in Breast Cancer. Most importantly, Berkeley offers a high quality business education to more than 600 students who receive valuable hands on knowledge of the current business culture through the College's association with various business and government leaders.

It is an honor to be able to recognize the achievements of Berkeley College.●

IN RECOGNITION OF BERNADETTE M. SOHLER

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Bernadette M. Sohler as the 2000 recipient of the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year for her exemplary service to the Chamber and the community at large.

Bernadette has served as a strong advocate and avid supporter of the Woodbridge Chamber since 1994. She served as its President from 1998-1999 and has volunteered for numerous committees including the Annual Chamber Golf Classic, Tour of Woodbridge, Holiday Luncheon and Parade, Chairman's Award, and Staff Appreciation Day.

As the External Affairs Manager at the Middlesex Water Company, Bernadette is responsible for all community and media relations; employee, customer, financial communications; corporate contributions; and public education. Her numerous board positions

include Chair of the Public Information Committee of the American Water Works Association, the Central Jersey National Council of Community and Justice, the Charity Committee of the Diocese of Metuchen, Raritan Bay Healthcare Foundation, and the Perth Amboy Neighborhood Empowerment Council Economic Development Task Force. Bernadette's strong record in the business community at the Middlesex Water Company and her commitment to public service demonstrate her outstanding achievements in the public and private sectors.

It is an honor to recognize Bernadette M. Sohler's efforts and congratulate her on receiving the 2000 Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year Award from the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce.●

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH JONASKY

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Elizabeth Jonasky of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey on the momentous occasion of her 105th birthday. Mrs. Jonasky will reach this wonderful milestone on November 5th of this year, and I feel it fitting that we acknowledge this special moment.

As I ponder all of the marvels and tragedies of our world that Elizabeth Jonasky has witnessed, I am reminded of the profound words of the Greek philosopher Plato, who once said, "It gives me great pleasure to converse with the aged. They have been over the road that all of us must travel, and know where it is rough and difficult and where it is level and easy."

It is a honor to wish Mrs. Jonasky the best of happiness on her birthday. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to continue to learn about life's rough and easy spots from her for sometime to come.●

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER ROBERT COUNSELMAN

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Father Robert Counselman, who received the 2000 William E. Short Award from the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce. Through his exemplary service to the community, Father Counselman has shown his dedication and commitment to numerous civic institutions within and outside of the church.

Father Counselman serves as Chaplain to the Woodbridge Township Police Department and the Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce. He is an active participant in several civic and private institutions such as Habitat for Humanity, the Woodbridge Historical League, the Community Advisory Panel, and the Woodbridge Historic Preservation Commission. He was also instrumental in setting up a "Soup Kitchen" at Trinity Church, which provides free meals on Fridays. In addition,

he helped establish a community playground, and is always available to assist people in their times of need.

It is an honor to recognize Father Robert Counselman's work and congratulate him on receiving the William E. Short Award from the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce.●

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN A. HOFFMAN ESQ.

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize John A. Hoffman Esq., a lifelong resident of central New Jersey, as the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. John has participated in numerous business, legal, and community affairs for more than 35 years and has established a remarkable record of success.

Mr. Hoffman joined the firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer in 1963, and is currently a managing partner. He represents major corporate and government clients such as PSE&G, Verizon New Jersey, Inc., Elizabeth Town Water Company, the Middlesex County Utilities Authority, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. John also serves as a member on several boards such as the Middlesex County College Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Foundation, Sister Cities Program of New Brunswick, and the New Jersey Client Security Fund. John has devoted his life to the practice of law and has used his experience and vision to lead and advise several other institutions in New Jersey. It is his extensive service to these institutions and their continued success that our State of New Jersey owes a great debt of gratitude.

It is an honor to recognize Mr. Hoffman's work and extend my congratulations to him on receiving the 2000 Citizen of the Year Award from the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce.●

IN RECOGNITION OF LEE VETLAND

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Lee Vetland, the Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year. As owner of Lee's Auto Body, Inc. in Avenel, New Jersey, Mr. Vetland has turned his business into a highly respected and successful enterprise.

Lee's Auto Body opened for business in 1975 with three employees. Since that time, through his own industry, hard work, and a strong work ethic, Lee has seen his business grow to 21 employees. His efforts and commitment extend to other areas besides his entrepreneurship. Lee is the Chairman of the Board for Auto Body Distributing Company, Vice President of the Auto Body Shop Association in New Jersey (A.A.S.P.N.J.), a member of the Advisory Board for the Amoco Dealer Panel, and the Governor's Task Force

on insurance fraud. While Lee has excelled in the auto body business, his expertise and knowledge have benefitted numerous organizations and associations throughout New Jersey as well.

It is an honor to recognize Mr. Vetland's achievements and extend my congratulations to him for receiving the 2000 Small Business Person of the Year Award from the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I stand today to congratulate the Middlesex County Division of the American Cancer Society for being honored with the Community Service Award by the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce. The Middlesex Unit offers a wide array of programs and resources to help people learn about new treatments for cancer, arrange for home care, locate medical supplies and uplift patients with cancer and their families.

The Middlesex Unit is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by taking pro-active measures to save lives and diminish the suffering of cancer patients through research, education, advocacy, and service. The Middlesex County Division's commitment to reducing the effects of cancer through medical means as well as its commitment to helping patients through financial assistance illustrates the Division's unique and humane approach to aiding patients with cancer. Their services have been of great benefit to countless individuals in Middlesex County.

It is an honor to recognize the work of the Middlesex County Division of the American Cancer Society and congratulate them on receiving the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce's 2000 Community Service Award.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3646) for the relief of certain Persian Gulf evacuees.