

Their willingness and desire to serve their country is perhaps the most persuasive evidence of all.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2001, 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Christopher Hill, Pompton Plains, Pequannock H.S.; Tin T. Nguyen, Denville, Morris Knolls H.S.; Michael Raphael, Jr., Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan; and Alexander T. Wong, Montville, Montville H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE

Joseph M. Crowley, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Michael Frediani, Morris Plains, Parsippany H.S.; James J. Maye, IV, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan; Bradley W. Schmidt, Mine Hill, Dover H.S.; and Patrick H. Uhles, Montville, Montville H.S.

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HONORING LANNA WALSH OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

**HON. SUSAN DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2001*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a California student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in our community. Lanna Walsh of San Diego has just been named one of California's top honorees in the 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in the United States.

Lanna Walsh is being recognized for founding a tutoring and mentoring program that pairs high school students with elementary and middle school students through the county public library system. She is a senior at Patrick Henry High School.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions this young citizen is making. As a former director of a youth leadership program myself, I know what an incredible difference these programs make in our community. Volunteers like Lanna are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

I heartily applaud Lanna Walsh for making San Diego a better place to live, and for the

positive impact she is making on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can, and do, play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

INTRODUCED LEGISLATION THAT WILL IMPROVE VETERAN'S HEALTHCARE

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2001*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill that will improve veterans healthcare.

I speak with veterans in the Second District of Tennessee on a regular basis, and I have heard time and time again of their frustration with scheduling an appointment at a Veterans Administration Clinic. Many times, people have to wait weeks and months just to see a doctor.

Mr. Speaker, this is not fair, and it is not right. Those who have laid their lives on the line for America deserve the utmost respect and assistance. They should not have to wait weeks and even months to be treated for a health problem.

When our Nation's veterans signed up to serve in the military, they were promised that they would be taken care of when they retired. We have a responsibility to live up to that promise, and to provide veterans with good healthcare.

Under this legislation, if a veteran tried to get a doctor's appointment at a Veterans' Clinic and had to wait longer than six months, the VA would be required to provide healthcare outside of the VA Clinics.

I am sure all veterans would agree that something needs to be done to improve their access to healthcare at Veterans' Clinics, and I am hopeful that this bill will be a step in the right direction.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and improve healthcare for the loyal and committed veterans of our Nation.

WOMT CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF BROADCASTING

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2001*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I want to salute and congratulate WOMT Radio in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, as it celebrates 75 years of community leadership and local broadcasting. This station has become a mainstay of the community and we have come to rely on WOMT to provide current, useful, and—perhaps most important—community-based programming. WOMT is relatively unique in the current broadcast world by maintaining its local control and focus. It prides itself on its ability to provide programming that centers on talk, news and local sports programs.

The station first went on the air back in 1926 and at the time was only the third radio

station in existence in the state of Wisconsin. Over its proud 75 year history, WOMT has had only three owners. In this era of broadcasting mega-mergers, WOMT has thrived under local ownership, providing the community not only news and information, but also shows featuring local on-air personalities that lakeshore residents have come to know well over the years. Throughout its long history, WOMT has proven that a radio station can be successful without compromising its goal of informing and educating its listeners.

WOMT has provided hours of listening pleasure to lakeshore residents over the years as we drive to work, pick up the kids from school, run our errands on the weekend, or tune in to catch a high school game. I again want to congratulate all the people at WOMT, including longtime owner Don Seehafer, for their dedication and commitment to making our lives a little more enjoyable. Congratulations, WOMT, on your first 75 years and we look forward to at least 75 more.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA ON JANUARY 26, 2001, AND SUPPORT FOR ONGOING AID EFFORTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy for the victims of the earthquake that recently struck the state of Gujarat in western India.

January 26th marked Republic Day for the Indian people. The celebration of the fifty-first anniversary of the ratification of the Indian constitution was overshadowed by an earthquake, which although it only lasted sixty seconds, took an incalculable toll on western India.

It measured 7.9 on the Richter Scale. An earthquake so forceful and deadly that tremors were felt throughout the country and an estimated 25,000 people were killed. Remarkably, rescuers continue to find survivors, and we are grateful for their work on behalf of the Indian people. The slow and arduous process of rebuilding both buildings and lives has begun. The aftershock of such a calamity will be felt for years to come.

It is therefore my hope that our government will provide the necessary and appropriate funds that may help alleviate the destruction caused by this catastrophe. So far, USAID has allotted nine million dollars for relief efforts. However, no amount of aid can ever compensate for the anguish and profound loss that has been experienced by the Indian people.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF ONE ACCORD MINISTRY

**HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2001*

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the efforts of a local community organization,

Of One Accord Ministry, making the lives of many people in the First Congressional District better.

This weekend, Of One Accord Ministry will hold a celebration dinner in honor of the many volunteers who offered their time and assistance to help those who were less fortunate. Last year, these efforts helped over 28,000 individuals in Hawkins and Hancock Counties.

The true heroes of this organization were over 200 volunteers from all walks of life such as young scouts, employees from local businesses and industries, members of civic clubs, local schools, and members of various churches. These individuals offered their services in collecting needed items, taking donations, delivering food and other items to needy families, serving a free medical clinic for those in need of basic medical attention, and many other tasks.

In the Congress, I have often advocated that the government cannot be the answer to all of the problems that exist in our society. We can do many things to help out those who need assistance, but real changes come about with the help of the local community, neighbors helping neighbors, one individual at a time. Local organizations like Of One Accord Ministry are our first line of defense against these social problems. Their efforts should be highlighted and commended for the results they have achieved.

Too often, we only hear and read about the negative news in our localities. Positive efforts such as those provided by local citizens often go unnoticed. I want to take this opportunity to recognize, congratulate, and bring to the attention of the Congress the great work that is being accomplished by the volunteers of Of One Accord Ministry. Tennesseans are long known for their selfless devotion, earning us the nickname the "Volunteer State." These volunteers carry on that tradition and are truly deserving of our thanks today.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to former Senator Alan Cranston of California who passed away over the holiday break. In a career spanning most of the 20th century, both as a private citizen and a Member of Congress, he developed a reputation as a tireless advocate of worthy causes from the environment to veterans health, and most notably arms control. His passing gives us pause to reflect on the legacy of one who fought hard his entire life for peace and democratic freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, Alan Cranston began his crusade for peace early in his life as a journalist. Born in Palo Alto, California in 1914, Cranston graduated from Stanford University in 1936 and he worked for the International News Service where he edited the first unaltered version of Mein Kampf, laying bare Hitler's racist beliefs, and inviting a lawsuit from the Fuehrer over copyright infringement. In 1939, Cranston continued his fight against racism as an advocate for the Common Council for

America Unity, an organization opposing discrimination against the foreign born.

Cranston's service to his country began during World War II, when he enlisted in the United States Army and became a private. Because of his verbal skills, he was assigned to lecture to soldiers on war aims. After the war, Cranston continued to advocate peace through his career in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, in 1968, he became a United States Senator from California. In the U.S. Senate, Alan Cranston's tireless advocacy for protecting the California desert and advocating the philosophy of arms control and arms reduction earned him the reputation of a "workhorse," and it is one he rightly deserves. And even after leaving the Senate at the age of 82, Alan Cranston continued until the time of his death to press for arms reduction by chairing two San Francisco-based think tanks—the Gorbachev Foundation USA and the Global Security Institute.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Alan Cranston worked long and hard for peace, and at his passing I join his many friends and admirers in paying tribute to his distinguished service, and it is my hope that we may carry on his work with equal strength and conviction.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2001*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 on January 30–31, 2001 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MAKE TAX CREDITS WORK FIX ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

#### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2001*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today badly needed legislation to make permanent the temporary provision of current law that allows all nonrefundable personal tax credits to be used against the alternative minimum tax. These credits include the child credit, the adoption credit, the HOPE credit, the lifelong learning credit, and the dependent child care credit.

I have introduced this bill in the two previous Congresses, H.R. 4489 and H.R. 1097. In 1998 Congress enacted a 1-year provision to solve the problem, and in 1999 Congress enacted a 3-year solution. Now is the time to permanently fix the problem, if only because the problem will get more serious and the revenue cost will increase every year we delay. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, a permanent solution to this problem enacted in 1999 would have cost \$6 billion over 2000–2004, and \$29.6 billion over 2000–2009. This rapid escalation in cost demonstrates why it is important to resolve the problem now. It also indicates how rapidly this provision will affect American families if it is not solved permanently.

To date, two messages have come out of the Bush administration on this issue. The first message is that the alternative minimum tax is a problem to be thought about. The second message is that Congress ought to fix it. Refusing to face this problem directly, and taking responsibility for helping resolve it, is a recipe for continued temporary solutions in an era where budget surpluses demand real tax solutions to real tax problems. I have offered twice to work with the administration on permanent solutions, and I continue to hope a permanent solution will be incorporated into its tax proposals.

Without these temporary solutions, current law would not allow personal tax credits to be used against the alternative minimum tax. Since taxpayers must pay the higher of their regular federal income tax, or the alternative minimum tax, many families find some or all of these credits disallowed by the AMT. In 1998 the Department of the Treasury estimated that over 800,000 families would have been denied the full amount of the child credit or the education credits, and that the number would increase annually.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, the estimated average time it takes to fill out the alternative minimum tax form was 5 hours and 39 minutes. It would, of course, take much longer for hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who may be forced to fill out this form for the first time as a result of the credits Congress offered them in the name of child care, adoption, and education. And I cannot think of anything that would produce greater cynicism on the part of the American people than not enacting a permanent solution to this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I have never thought of this issue as a partisan issue. I have worked with the former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee Mr. Archer, and with the chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee AMO HOUGHTON, to bring this issue to the attention of Members of Congress, the administration, and the American people. I will continue to pursue all avenues during the 107th Congress to defuse this hidden time bomb permanently.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me simply say that the AMT presents additional challenges to Congress. The interaction of the AMT and the nonrefundable personal tax credits is only the most immediate, most crucial, problem. A second problem is that over the next decade the fact that the AMT is not adjusted for inflation while the regular federal income tax is adjusted, will push millions of families into the AMT and that should be dealt with as soon as possible. A third problem exists because the AMT will slash much of the tax relief that will be promised by President Bush this week, if it is not dealt with within the Bush proposals. I, and others, have proposed various solutions to these problems and I will continue to press for solutions to all the problems presented by the AMT. But the most immediate problem is that caused by the interaction of the AMT and nonrefundable credits, and that must be dealt with no matter what this year.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2001*

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was present and voting on Wednesday, January