

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CHP 11-99 FOUNDATION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the CHP 11-99 Foundation for their continuous support of their fellow officers. The CHP 11-99 Foundation provides assistance, benefits, and scholarships for the families of California Highway Patrolmen who need the help.

The CHP 11-99 Foundation was founded in 1981 by businessman Bob Weinberg. He started the Foundation when he discovered that there was no organized community support for California Highway Patrol families in times of crisis. Today, more than 3,000 special individuals from all walks of life are providing financial assistance as members of the CHP 11-99 Foundation.

The CHP 11-99 Foundation has awarded nearly \$1 million in scholarships for educational opportunities to the children and spouses of CHP employees. The Foundation hopes to raise sufficient funds to assure a quality education for all CHP children and spouses who wish to continue their schooling. When tragedy befalls a California Highway Patrolman, CHP 11-99 Foundation can deliver funds to the family within hours.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the CHP 11-99 Foundation and its Board of Directors for their dedication to providing support to the family members of California Highway Patrolmen during their time of need. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the CHP 11-99 Foundation many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF MR. JACK KRISE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man and public servant, Mr. Jack Krise, for his years of dedication to the City of Parma, Ohio, on his retirement from the Municipal Treasurer's Association.

Mr. Jack Krise has served his local community for many years. In 1985, Mr. Krise was elected to his first term as Treasurer of the City of Parma, defeating the incumbent. After just a few months into office, he quickly reorganized the Income Tax Division of the Treasurer's Office. He directed much needed personnel into tasks and reduced personal costs by \$35,000. He immediately began an aggressive approach to collect overdue Municipal Income Taxes owed to the City of Parma. In 1987, Mr. Krise initiated a lock box collection system through a Cleveland bank that increased not only efficiency, but also reduced employee costs by \$25,000.

Mr. Krise continued to implement programs that improved efficiency in the City of Parma and quickly earned the respect and admiration of his co-workers and constituency. In 1989, Krise was re-elected Treasurer without opposition and found himself in the Parma Schools "Hall of Fame" of graduates. In 1987, after re-election in the City of Parma, Mr. Krise was elected Treasurer of the Municipal Treasurer's Association of the United States and Canada, an esteemed honor.

His kind smile and gentle demeanor earned him the respect and admiration of residents from the City of Parma. He has worked his entire life toward bettering his community through public service, and has touched countless people through his tenure as City Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a man that has dedicated his life to public service, Mr. Jack Krise. His dedication, hard-work, and generosity has improved the City of Parma in countless ways.

INCOME EQUITY ACT OF 2001

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, analysis of recent Congressional Budget office data on income trends show alarming evidence of the widening gap between America's highest- and lowest-paid workers. Between 1979 and 1997, the income of the lowest 20 percent of U.S. households, in constant dollars, fell by \$100. In contrast, the household income of those in the top 1 percent increased an average of \$414,000. Despite the unprecedented economic growth of the past decade, America's lowest-paid workers are not catching up.

The outlook appears as dim. With passage of President Bush's tax cut earlier this year, the disparity between low- and high-income households will only widen. When fully phased in, the top 1 percent of households would see their income grow 6-7 percent, or \$46,000-\$53,000. However, the household income of the lowest 20 percent would rise only 0.8 percent, and the income of those in the middle fifth would rise only 2.2 percent.

To combat this troubling growth of economic inequality in America, I am again introducing the Income Equity Act. This legislation addresses the problem by encouraging corporate responsibility. For too many years, the trend in corporate America has been to pay top executives lavishly, while thinking of other employees as an expense or not thinking of them at all. My legislation will encourage companies to take a closer look at how they compensate their employees at both ends of the income ladder.

The Income Equity Act would place a new limit on our government's practice of subsidizing executive compensation through the tax code. My bill would enhance the current

\$1,000,000 cap on the tax deduction for executive compensation with a cap set at 25 times the company's lowest full-time salary. For example, if a filing clerk at a firm earns \$18,000, then any amount of executive compensation over \$450,000 would no longer be tax deductible as a business expense.

I have revised the Income Equity Act for 2001 to include non-cash compensation such as stock options, memberships to premier health and sporting facilities, and higher education for executives' children. More and more executives are receiving compensation in forms other than cash, and my revised legislation addresses this trend to ensure that taxpayers do not inappropriately subsidize these forms of compensation.

This bill would not restrict the freedom of companies to pay their workers and executives as they please. It would send a strong message, however, that in return for tax deductions, the American taxpayer expects companies to compensate their lowest-paid workers fairly.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation alone will not completely close the ever-widening income gap in America. However, it is an important step in resolving this growing problem that imposes monetary and social costs on all of us.

HONORING JOHN STRAUB, DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Mr. John Straub has recently finished three and one-half years of service to the House of Representatives as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. I rise today to recognize and salute Mr. Straub as that service has been of a very high standard and filled with accomplishment.

During his tenure as Deputy CAO, John also served as acting head of the Office of Finance. It was during this time that the House of Representatives received its first clean audit of its financial statements by outside auditors, PriceWaterhouse Coopers. While the entire Finance Office team was responsible for this achievement, John played a significant role in leading the House to a high level of financial management.

John has also served as the point man working with the House Inspector General to guide and coach improvement of a number of House services. He was successful in assisting CAO personnel to take actions that have met the standards called for in several hundred audit recommendations issued by the House IG. Clearly, the Members, House staff and the public have benefited from the enhanced level of service and efficiencies that these improvements have made possible.

The Appropriations Committee has relied on the CAO's office for assistance with the House

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

budget as the annual Legislative appropriations bill makes its way through Congress. John frequently served as point man in making sure that we had accurate information and figures as our legislation was constructed.

All too often, Mr. Speaker, in the rush of day to day activities, we elected Members of the House forget the hard work and dedication of House employees other than those in our personal offices. The American people are fortunate to have hard working public servants such as John Straub. In a hundred ways, John has made the House a better, fairer place to work and serve for literally thousands of other public servants.

In closing, besides his many practical accomplishments, Mr. Straub brought to the House a personal style that is both professional and refreshing. He always had a kind word and a smile, and applied boundless energy to every task.

While we in the House are disappointed to lose a person of his caliber, we're pleased that he'll be able to support one of the Nation's pre-eminent education institutions, Harvard University, as Associate Dean for administration of the Kennedy School of Government. On behalf of the members and the institution, we thank John Straub for his service and dedication, and wish him best of luck in his future endeavors.

RETHINKING FIRE IN THE WAKE OF FIREFIGHTER DEATHS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2001, four of Washington State's young firefighters died battling a forest fire on the Okanogan National Forest. As I have had time to reflect on this tragic event, I have come to realize that wildland fire suppression continues to be a dangerous and risky operation.

As in previous tragedies such as the Mann Gulch fire in Montana and the Storm King Mountain fire in Colorado, our hearts pour out to the families, friends, and colleagues of those who perished fighting wildland fires. The deaths of Tom L. Craven, Jessica L. Johnson, Karen L. Fitzpatrick, and Devin A. Weaver is a disturbing reminder of Mother Nature's powerful forces and unrelenting risks faced by our dedicated firefighters. Although seventeen firefighters lived, as did two campers caught in the explosive fire, I am grieved by the deaths of these four young people and I do not want this to happen again.

Their tragic deaths raise significant questions—questions that may likely go unasked in the Forest Service investigation: Could these deaths have been prevented through a different systemic response to fire? Should the Forest Service have been expending hundreds of thousands of dollars and risking the lives of dozens of firefighters to fight a fire in a remote canyon that threatened no houses or resources? Would a fire management plan have ensured that the fire would have been handled differently?

The Okanogan fire started in remote backcountry adjacent to a Wilderness Area. The nearest house was at least ten miles

away, the nearest town twenty miles away. While the cause of the fire is not yet known, we do know that the fire began in a designated roadless area. If the forest had a fire management plan in place—as is required by countless agency directives—it is likely that such a plan for the area would have provided alternative strategy options for the Forest Service.

The Okanogan fire underscores the need to re-examine our nation's approach to forest fire and to reframe the terms of debate. In the wake of this fire will come calls to reduce fire risks through aggressive thinning and full funding for fire preparedness. However, this approach merely perpetuates the culture of fire suppression that operates with few fiscal or social constraints. It also serves to exacerbate the risks of fire through fire exclusion. It perpetuates the illusion that we can and should control all fire, regardless of location and ecosystem. These suppression efforts make little sense fiscally or environmentally. A different approach would have the agency stop putting out fires in remote backcountry.

Last year, Congress allocated \$1.6 billion to the Forest Service for implementation of its national fire plan. In addition to working with homeowners to reduce vegetation around their homes, these dollars should be spent on returning fire to its natural role in the ecosystem. We can do this through targeting thinning, prescribed burns, and fire-use policies. We also should be spending money on fire management planning and sensible suppression efforts—ones that do not needlessly endanger lives.

Putting out all fires regardless of location and ecosystem simply puts off the inevitable. The West's forests have burned for thousands of years and will continue to do so. We must learn to live with fire, rather than stepping up the assault on what is still perceived by many as "the enemy." We must stop sacrificing our young people in this futile effort.

I would like to enter into the record the following op ed from the Portland Oregonian that highlights these issues:

[From the Portland Oregonian, July 17, 2001]

DEAD FIREFIGHTERS WERE SENT WHERE THEY
DIDN'T BELONG

(By Andy Stahl)

I write this not long after four young men and women died battling the Thirty Mile fire in the remote Chewuch River canyon of the Okanogan National Forest.

Tom Craven, Karen Fitzpatrick, Devin Weaver and Jessica Johnson were sent by the Forest Service to do a job. They died in the performance of that duty.

But was the job they were doing worth their lives? Did this fire, in a steep, remote canyon that threatened no houses or valuable resources, need to be battled? During its investigation into these tragic deaths, the U.S. Forest Service had better answer these questions.

The Thirty Mile fire started in roadless, backcountry land immediately adjacent to the remote Pasayten wilderness. Perhaps the fire started from an unattended campfire; the investigation has yet to pin down the cause.

The fire began in a designated Research Natural Area, at 6,000 acres, one of the largest RNAs in the nation.

This is important in what happened next: It appears fire managers did not even know the fire was in a Research Natural Area. Had they known, they would not have aggres-

sively attacked the fire with aerial retardants and firelines, which are banned in RNAs. Instead, they would have held back and taken a more cautious approach to fighting this fire—an approach that sought to allow the fire to mimic natural processes within this fire-dependent ecosystem.

Admittedly, hindsight can be 20-20, but it is worth considering that a more cautious approach to fighting this fire might also have saved lives.

The Thirty Mile fire exemplifies the need to take a hard look at our nation's approach to wildland fires. A century of aggressive fire suppression, combined with logging of the biggest and most fire-resistant trees, has damaged ecosystems throughout the West. Continuing to put out every fire in the remote backcountry makes little sense economically or environmentally. We must carefully restore fire to its prominent role as nature's cleansing agent in our public forests.

Last year the Congress allocated a record amount, \$1.6 billion, to the Forest Service for its national fire plan. The first priority should be to help private homeowners who live near fire-prone national forests to manage the vegetation within several hundred feet of their houses. That's where the biggest difference is made between a home burning up in a forest fire and a home surviving. The next priority should be to return fire to its natural role in the environment.

Putting out all fires simply puts off the day of reckoning. Burn today or burn tomorrow, the West's forests have burned for thousands of years and will continue to do so.

We must learn to live with fire just as we live with the weather. And we must stop sacrificing our best and brightest young people in this futile war against an implacable enemy.

COMMEMORATING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND ITS NEW PRESIDENT, RICHARD KING

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2001, Richard King, of Fremont, California, was officially named the 2001–2002 president of Rotary International, one of the largest volunteer organizations in the world. Mr. King is a trial lawyer and a member of the Rotary Club of Niles. A Rotary club member since 1968, Mr. King has served as a trustee of The Rotary Foundation and director and chairman of the Executive Committee of Rotary International's board of directors. He has been an active spokesperson at Rotary functions in more than 75 countries.

Rotarians are represented in more than 160 countries worldwide and approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 29,000 Rotary Clubs. The main objective of Rotary is service in the community, in the workplace and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many critical issues, such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, the environment, violence and children at risk. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchange for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development.

The Rotary motto is Service Above Self. As Richard King assumes the helm of leadership,