

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### OFFSET OF FEDERAL TAX REFUNDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEBTS

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to be introducing legislation that would establish a federal tax refund offset program for state and local governments. Specifically, this program would require the federal government to withhold refunds from those individuals and corporations that still owe state or local government tax obligations.

Today, the reverse situation exists. A number of states allow their own state agencies, local governments and the Internal Revenue Service to submit a list of delinquent taxpayers. The state then matches these delinquent accounts against taxpayers who may qualify for a state tax refund. If a match is found, the state reduces the refund by the amount of the delinquency and remits the funds to the claimant. These programs have proven to be low-cost and highly effective. Congress recognized the effectiveness of these programs and directed the Internal Revenue Service to establish a similar program to cover claims by other federal agencies, as well as for past-due child support obligations. Last year, Congress expanded the program by directing the Treasury Department to accept claims by states for income tax obligations.

The legislation I am introducing today builds on these successful programs by permitting local governments to participate. The local governments could submit their outstanding tax debts to the Department of the Treasury for an offset against any federal tax refund, just as federal agencies and states do now. This legislation would also permit a claim to be made for any legally enforceable tax obligation owed to the state or local government.

In an era of tight state and local government budgets, it is patently unfair to have the tax-paying citizenry bear the costs and burdens of those who do not pay their fair share. As President Kennedy recognized, "[t]o the extent that some people are dishonest or careless in their dealings with the government, the majority is forced to carry a heavier tax burden." (April 20, 1961) The legislation that I am introducing today will provide a means to help distribute that burden more equitably.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

### NOVEMBER SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Carle Place Middle School

in Carle Place as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for November 2001.

Neil J. Connolly is Principal of Carle Place, and Dr. Patricia B. Hansen is the Superintendent of Schools for the Carle Place Union Free School District. There are approximately 260 students in 7th and 8th grades.

The outstanding academic records at Carle Place demonstrate the vibrancy of learning inside this school firsthand. The faculty and staff are focused on sending their students to high school wholly prepared and ready to keep learning.

One group of national renowned winners at Carle Place are the budding journalists involved in The Carle Place Middle School Newspaper, The Path. For two years running, The Path's excellent team took top honors from the American Scholastic Press Association newspaper competition.

Expanding on those good deeds, Carle Place Middle, in conjunction with Carle Place High, is the number one contributor to Make-A-Wish Foundation in the entire country, exceeding \$379,500 since 1988.

At Carle Place, students are focused on helping others. When young people dedicate their time and effort willingly, a lifetime of caring for your fellow man is solidified.

You name it, Carle Place students are there, nabbing top honors in the Long Island Science Congress Junior Division, Scholar Athletes, National Junior Honor Society, language arts competitions, and excelling in the Fine and Performing Arts programs.

Congratulations to Carle Place Middle School students, faculty and administration on this achievement. Keep up the good work.

### SALUTE TO UNION RIDGE SCHOOL, SELECTED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Union Ridge School, which was named a Blue Ribbon School, by the Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School Program. This year, Union Ridge was one of 223 public schools recognized by the program.

Selection of Blue Ribbon Schools is based on a rigorous evaluation process. Schools are evaluated by the program's reviewers and by a thorough self-evaluation involving administrators, teachers, students, parents and community. This is a highly competitive program that recognizes schools that are making a major positive impact in their communities and in our country.

Union Ridge School is a one-school elementary district in Harwood Heights, Illinois, with students ranging from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The school serves an

urban, "blue collar" community and has established a long-standing tradition of setting high expectations for all learners. The school has implemented a variety of programs designed to promote diversified education, including formal bilingual and English as a Second Language programs.

Union Ridge is a Blue Ribbon winner because it has realized its educational goals through the efforts of a creative and dedicated staff. Their innovative instruction combines engaged learning and challenging experiences for students of differing abilities and backgrounds. The school promotes awareness and a commitment to educational diversity.

Union Ridge School has established itself as a centerpiece for learning. Its goals and priorities have been planned to be consistent with community values. Union Ridge is an example of what all schools across the country strive to do—to provide a quality, diversified education that enriches the lives of students and the surrounding community.

I congratulate Union Ridge School, the 11 other Blue Ribbon winners in Illinois, and all the Blue Ribbon Schools in the country on their achievement. There is nothing more important than preparing young minds to create a better America. I commend Union Ridge School for its efforts toward that end.

### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SONOMA COUNTY YWCA

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sonoma County YWCA on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary. Since November, 1976, the YWCA has led the battle against domestic violence in our community.

Begun by a group of women who met at the Santa Rosa library 25 years ago, the organization initially thought it would offer shelter for all homeless women but soon realized there was an urgent need to protect women fleeing for their lives. The first safe house was opened a year later with seed money from the county Mental Health Department.

The Sonoma County YWCA now has an annual budget of \$2,000,000 and offers child care, a legal clinic, counseling, and professional training as well as a safe house that is always full. Last year the domestic violence hotline received 2,501 phone calls and took in 193 women and children as well as counseling men who were victims of domestic violence. The YWCA partners with local law enforcement in this effort and has satellite offices inside local police departments.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor the founders of the Sonoma County YWCA, especially Barbara Tomin and Pat Kuda, who were the visionaries, the planners, and the energy behind this project, as well as all those who have contributed to these vital services for the last 25 years.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

HONORING MARGARET C. MOSHER

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to a woman who has been invaluable to California's Central Coast, Mrs. Margaret C. Mosher. Because of her generous dedication and devotion to young people, Mrs. Mosher was honored at the Annual Kids Auction on November 3, 2001, in Santa Barbara, CA.

Proceeds from the Annual Kids Auction will benefit youth development programs at local Boys and Girls Clubs throughout California's 22nd Congressional District. Since its inception 18 years ago, this auction has raised over a million dollars to support programs that benefit over 4,000 youth a year. After school care, computer training, and drug abuse and gang prevention programs are only a few examples of the services that will benefit from the auction proceeds.

It is fitting that the Annual Kids Auction will be honoring Margaret Mosher this year, as she has spent over 20 years dedicating herself to the Boys and Girls Club Organizations. Striving to aid the organization in as many ways as possible, 18 years ago Mrs. Mosher established an annual fundraiser, the Bill Oliver Memorial Golf Tournament. All of the proceeds of this tournament go directly to the Goleta Boys and Girls Club.

In addition to her dedication to the Boys and Girls Club, Mrs. Mosher is currently the president of the Samuel B. Mosher Foundation. She is also the president and owner of the Dos Pueblos Orchid Company and the owner of the Perry Investment Company. She is on the advisory board of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the International Eye Tissue Bank. She is also on the board of directors for the John Tracy Clinic and the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild. In 1992 Mrs. Mosher received the UCSB Alumni Association's Honorary Alumni Award. She has been a trustee of The UCSB Foundation since 1983, and is a member of the Chancellor's Council, the Lancaster Society and the Legacy Circle.

Numerous children have benefited from Mrs. Mosher's generosity, and I am so pleased to have this opportunity to honor her and thank her for all the wonderful things she has accomplished.

CONGRATULATING PYUNIC USA

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pyunic USA for their accomplishments over the past 11 years. Pyunic USA is an Armenian-based association that is dedicated to helping disabled individuals in Armenia.

Pyunic was founded in 1989 to provide aid to the children left disabled by the devastating Armenian earthquake of 1988. Since its inception, Pyunic has evolved into an association that supports all of the physically challenged in

Armenia. The help they provide includes individuals born with disabilities and those who were injured while defending Karabagh. Services provided by Pyunic include physical and mental rehabilitation, advocacy for the rights of the disabled, annual summer/winter camp sessions, and athletic paralympic training to all disabled children and young adults throughout Armenia.

With over 50 volunteers and only 4 staff members Pyunic's mission is to integrate the disabled into Armenia's mainstream life. The organization takes pride in their efforts to develop outstanding disabled athletes who travel worldwide to compete in several marathons and Paralympics. In 2000 Pyunic was selected as the "Best Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) of Armenia for Youth." Pyunic has created working relationships with several international nongovernmental organizations, including Save the Children International, the World Rehabilitation Foundation and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Pyunic has five main goals: to help disabled become self-sufficient and contributing members of Armenia, and integrate them into mainstream life; to promote physical, social and psychological rehabilitation; to utilize sports to develop strong bodies and active minds; to develop skills to meet challenges of life for the disabled; to educate the public through dissemination of information on the issues of disability.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Pyunic USA for their commitment to improving the lives of the disabled. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Pyunic USA many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO WHITE KNOLL  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students and faculty of White Knoll Middle School in Columbia, SC, who, for a number of weeks have been raising money for a new fire truck to be presented to the New York City Fire Department in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The students and faculty of White Knoll Middle School have embarked on a project that is both uniquely appropriate and inspiring. While people all across the country sought meaningful ways to respond personally and collectively to the despicable terrorist attacks commensurate to the anguish they were feeling, the students and faculty at White Knoll Middle School committed to the purchase and "return" of a fire truck to New York City as an expression of their heartfelt empathy, faith, and resolve.

Mr. Speaker, as a former high school history teacher and devout historic preservationist, I share with you and my colleagues the discovery of an intriguing historical link. Logbooks kept at the Columbia Fire Department Museum in Columbia, SC, reveal that on June 27, 1867, two years after a Civil War fire destroyed the city, a group of New York City firefighters—former Union Soldiers—delivered a fire truck to the city of Columbia that, at the

time, was using citizen bucket brigades. The burning of Columbia left deep wounds in the South Carolina psyche, with many harboring ill will against the North for decades. However, logbooks indicate that New York firefighters and Columbians of that period 134 years ago, looked at the gift as an act of healing.

These students and their teachers are telling the citizens of New York City that Columbia remembers. The hearts of New York City firefighters reached out to Columbia 134 years ago and now the hearts of the children at White Knoll Middle are reaching out to New York. At least \$350,000 is needed for a new fire engine and they are within a few thousand dollars of reaching that figure. White Knoll Middle raised \$18,000 before their cause entitled South Carolina Remembers, grew to include key business leaders, city officials, corporations, civic organizations, and philanthropists from the Columbia area such as SCANA, SCE&G, Mayor Bob Coble and Mr. Sam Tenenbaum. They raised the funds by using word of mouth and old-fashioned techniques such as bake sales, car washes, gospel concerts, and booths at the South Carolina State Fair.

The fund raising effort continues to gain momentum as over \$330,000 has been raised to date—including a \$50,000 pledge from an anonymous donor. White Knoll Middle School's story of benevolence has caught the attention of many local and national media outlets and has been featured on CBS's "Early Show," as well as in People and Time Magazines.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in honoring White Knoll Middle School for their outstanding work as they emulate the beautiful and united fabric of America. The students and faculty of White Knoll Middle School have taught us once more that history has a way of connecting us and kindness has a way of multiplying the effects of those connections.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. GERALD  
B.H. SOLOMON

SPEECH OF

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2001*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I note the death of a former colleague and a great New Yorker, Mr. Gerald Solomon, who passed away last month.

Jerry grew up in Delmar, New York and attended Siena College and St. Lawrence University before enlisting in the Marines at the onset of the Korean War. After serving his country with honor as a member of the Armed Forces, Jerry continued working for the nation as a Member of Congress. But even as an elected representative, when you spoke with Jerry, you could easily guess his background. Like the motto says, "once a Marine, always a Marine."

First elected in 1978, Jerry and I were in the same freshman class of Congress as I too was elected that year. I got to know, and become very good friends with Jerry during the 20 years we served in the House together. He was perhaps the most ardent supporter of our nation's veterans. As the Ranking Member on