

REMARKS ON ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for efforts to increase the depreciation deduction. In my view accelerated depreciation is one of the most efficient and effective ways for Congress to spur business investment in our country.

Mr. Speaker, as you know this year has seen a dramatic drop off in business investment. Business investment was one of the foundations of the economic boom that our nation enjoyed during the Clinton Administration. It is therefore critical that Congress does what it can to restart the capital investment engine that has propelled our nation's economy to extraordinary heights over the last decade.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to reductions in interest rates and balancing the budget, one of the most important things the Federal Government can do to increase business investment, in my view, is to accelerate the depreciation schedule for business purchases. Depreciation schedules reflect the Federal Government's own somewhat arbitrary calculation of what is the economic life of capital. Accelerating the depreciation allowance for new capital investments provides a direct and immediate incentive for businesses to build factories, purchase new equipment, and generally expand operations. This inevitably creates jobs and results in a long term improvement in the productivity rates of American industry. Additionally, unlike many other proposed tax incentives, accelerated depreciation is directly tied to business investment. A business-person can not enjoy this tax incentive unless he or she commits to a capital expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons, I firmly believe that the long term economic benefits of accelerated depreciation far outweigh the immediate revenue loss consequences of any such tax cut. It is my hope than in the 2002 session of the 107th Congress we will pass into law an acceleration of the depreciation allowance.

IN RECOGNITION OF JESUS BURCIAGA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost honor and pleasure that I rise to recognize Mr. Jesus Burciaga, a gifted leader and outstanding firefighter from La Habra, California. Today, Jesus achieves another milestone in an already storied career. In the process, he affirms our belief that devotion, determination, and discipline still pay handsome dividends in life.

This 20th of December, the Los Angeles County Fire Department elevates Jesus to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief, third in command of the second largest fire protection agency in America. His promotion highlights a career of exceptional public service which began more than a quarter century ago.

As a young man who once shined shoes on the corner of First Street and Gage Avenue in East Los Angeles, Jesus saw his hard work and perseverance take him from the lowest position in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, suppression aid, to fire fighter, then inspector, to Captain by 1984. Five years later he was promoted to Battalion Chief, and by 1994 he had become Assistant Fire Chief, serving for a time as Los Angeles County Fire Marshal.

Chief Burciaga has accomplished many "firsts." He became one of the youngest firefighters to qualify for Captain at the age of twenty-five. He became the first Fire Marshal of Latino descent in the County's history. And he is certainly the first fortyseven year old father of five daughters whom I have witnessed retain not only his hair but its natural dark color.

I met Jesus more than thirteen years ago at a "Career Day" session at a local elementary school where we both were presented before a class of fifth graders. Captain Burciaga was dressed in uniform; I, Deputy Attorney General Becerra, wore my suit. There was no contest: he glittered, I gawked. He told the kids of his battles with fire, I battled to keep their eyes on me. It would not surprise me if some of those young students today are firefighters.

Chief Burciaga has a passion for service and a devotion to our youth. As President of the United Hispanic Scholarship Fund he has helped raise \$500,000 to make the dream of college a reality for more than one thousand students. He volunteers his "spare time" to support his brethren internationally, delivering surplus but valuable firefighting vehicles and equipment and teaching the latest fire fighting techniques to firefighters in countries like Mexico.

But, without question, his greatest passion and devotion, which has earned him our undying respect and affection, belongs to his family. Ana Burciaga has fought every one of her husband's fires. In her eyes you see the values that have made the Burciaga family so strong. Ana and Jesus and their five accomplished daughters—Elenor, Catherine, Luz, Natalie and Sarah—have every right to be proud today.

Mr. Speaker, on this day, December 20, 2001, family, friends and colleagues gather at Descanso Gardens in La Cánada, Flintridge, California to witness the official appointment of Jesus Burciaga as Deputy Fire Chief for the County of Los Angeles and to celebrate 28 years of courage, integrity, and consummate professionalism. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues in this beloved House of Representatives to join me today in saluting Jesus Burciaga, an exceptional man and cherished friend.

WILKES-BARRE NATIVE HONORED FOR ROLE IN BOMBER CREW RESCUE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the dedication of the team from the USS *Russell* who rescued the four mem-

ber-crew of an Air Force B-1B bomber that crashed on December 12th in the Indian Ocean. In particular, I would like to highlight the role of Boatswain Mate 1st Class Stephen Lyons, a native of my District.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that I am proud of him and all the military personnel from Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania and grateful for their willingness to serve America.

I would now like to enter into the record the following article about Boatswain Mate 1st Class Lyons from the December 17th edition of the Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice:

CITY NATIVE INVOLVED IN INDIAN OCEAN RESCUE

(By Gene Skordinski and Tom Venesky)

A Wilkes-Barre native was one of the members of the USS *Russell* who rescued the four member-crew of an Air Force B-1B bomber that crashed Wednesday in the Indian Ocean.

Boatswain Mate 1st Class Stephen Lyons, 38, operated one boat that rescued the crew.

The rescue boats were launched from the destroyer USS *Russell* after the jet crashed on its way to bomb targets in Afghanistan.

The \$280 million bomber went out of control and fell into the ocean about 60 miles north of Diego Garcia after taking off from the British island, government sources reported.

It was the first manned, fixed wing U.S. aircraft lost in the Afghanistan campaign.

Crew members ejected from the plane at 15,000 feet and were in the water about two hours during the night.

Lyons, who is on the USS *Russell*, was driving one search and rescue boat that responded to the crash.

All four crew members were in good condition, said officials.

Lyons Joined the Navy following his graduation from Meyers High School in 1983.

During his Navy career, he has served aboard the USS Guam for five years as well as the USS Savannah. He has served in Beirut, Somalia and the Gulf War. He has also completed several six-month tours of sea duty in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Lyons was responsible for collecting personal items from sailors on the USS Guam as well as the embassy personnel during the evacuation of the embassy in Somalia.

Aside from operating search and rescue craft, Lyons drives the captain's launch, a boat used to shuttle the ship's captain to and from shore.

He has also served at Norfolk, Va.; Pax River, Md.; Kings Bay, Ga., and Pearl Harbor.

While at Pax River, he worked in the testing of hovercraft and with the David Taylor Research in Norfolk.

He is the son of Harold and Jean Lyons, 160 Wood St., Wilkes-Barre. Boatswain Mate 1st Class Lyons is married to the former Sharon Gula, formerly of Edwardsville. They have two sons, Stephen, 13, and Justin, 11, and the family resides in Pearl Harbor. His grandmother, Lucy Machinshok, resides in the Pocono area.

His mother said he is currently on his fourth six-month cruise since joining the Navy in 1984. He is set to return after Easter.

Although his exact location is classified, she said she keeps in touch with her son through e-mail.

"He e-mails me three times a week," she said, adding it can be difficult not knowing where he is.

"You worry and wonder and thank God when you hear from him that it's good news," she said. "He can't tell us where he is or even where he's going."

Mrs. Lyons explained that the long months away from his family are accepted as part of her son's job.

Although it can be difficult to be gone for extended periods of time, she said her son is doing what he loves.

"He's happiest when he's on the ocean. There's a certain calm about it that he enjoys while he's on the ship," she explained.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the service to our nation of the crew of the USS *Russell*, including Boatswain Mate 1st Class Stephen Lyons, as well as all the military personnel from Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania, and I send my best wishes to them and their families.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRONIC MARKETPLACE OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Electronic Marketplace Ownership Disclosure Act. This legislation requires operators of Internet sites that match buyers and sellers to disclose whether they have financial relationships with parties involved in transactions that take place on their sites. Some Internet sites portray themselves as disinterested third parties that simply host a site matching buyers and sellers. The Electronic Marketplace Ownership Disclosure Act requires companies hosting such sites to affirmatively disclose corporate relationships they have with companies offering goods or services on their site.

Many consumers now rely on Internet marketplace sites to compare prices and buy goods. They should have the right to know who really owns an Internet exchange purporting to provide a neutral marketplace. The Electronic Marketplace Ownership Disclosure Act will enable consumers to make more informed purchasing decisions. In the long term, the continued growth of Internet commerce depends on the medium's integrity as a marketplace. This legislation will support the Internet's continued growth by increasing public confidence.

There is a tangible need for this legislation. Last year, Money magazine disclosed that QuickenInsurance.com, a site owned by Intuit Corporation, claimed to provide the "best prices from America's top insurance and loan companies." However, according to the article, Quicken does not disclose on their site that they receive a commission from every insurance policy they arrange.

The American people deserve honesty, whether they are shopping online or in person. For too long, some Internet retailers have avoided telling consumers the truth about who they are owned by and who benefits for special arrangements that may do harm to consumers. The Electronic Marketplace Ownership Disclosure Act let American consumers know the whole truth. This bill is good for consumers, it is good for businesses, and it will benefit the Internet.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MITCHELL ROBINSON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on December 10th my good friend Mr. Mitchell Robinson passed away after a lengthy illness. He was someone who made a difference and dreamed the American Dream, and he truly represented what this country is all about. The following is a tribute to my friend.

Mr. Robinson, a Knoxville native for 77 years, founded Modern Supply Company in 1949. He devoted his life to family, business and philanthropy. He was married to Natalie Levison Robinson for 50 years.

Mr. Robinson was a lifelong member of Heska Amuna Synagogue and was a leader as chairman and longtime board member. He also chaired the Knoxville Jewish Federation. He established the Sylvia Robinson Memorial Fund and endowed the A.J. and Sylvia Robinson Chapel at the synagogue in memory of his parents.

Mr. Robinson, who served as president of the Southern Wholesalers Association and a Director of the American Supply Association, pioneered the concept of bath and kitchen showrooms in East Tennessee.

He was also active in the Knoxville business community, where he was a charter member of the Midtown Sertoma Club. He was a loyal supporter of the University of Tennessee, contributing to the Departments of Judaic Studies and Athletics.

A World War II veteran, Mr. Robinson served as a flight controller in the U.S. Air Corps Radar Unit in the Pacific.

His beloved family also includes children Rabbi Rayzel and Dr. Simcha Raphael of Philadelphia, A.J. Robinson and Dr. Nicole Ellerine of Atlanta, and Pace and Karen Robinson of Knoxville; grandchildren Yigdal and Hallet Raphael; Micaela, Ethan and Nathaniel Robinson, and Asher and Eli Robinson; sister and brother-in-law Fay and Bob Gluck of Boynton Beach, Fla.; brother-in-law Gilbert Levison of Knoxville; brother- and sister-in-law Marvin and Deanne Levison of Atlanta; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Mitchell spent most of his 77 years in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was part of a generation that had a significant impact on Knoxville and the surrounding area. He came back from World War II with no money, no business, and a limited education. But he had enduring self-confidence, determination, and a desire for accomplishment that stayed with him his entire life right up to the end.

He was part of that "greatest generation" that we read so much about today, and who Tom Brokaw has made so famous. Men and women who have impacted and enriched all of our lives over the last half of the 20th century.

But as many of you know, and as Sinatra sings, Mitch did it his way . . . whether it was in his business, in his synagogue, or the various other circles he traveled. Everyone was a part of his empire, family, friends, customers, and employees alike. He shared the good and the bad with everyone.

The child of immigrant parents, he created his own style, his own flair in everything he did and everybody he touched.

He had style in his clothes, in his cars, in his hats, in his dancing, in the showrooms at Modern Supply, in the "Pitch from Mitch" stationary, in the incentive trips for his customers that he so tediously planned and enjoyed. He bought things in a big way whether it was a truckload of sinks, shirts for himself, or smoked turkeys for gifts. He was able to charm about anyone he met, particularly the females. He had an appetite for food and people that was enormous.

Mr. Robinson was a leader, perhaps not always knowing where he was going, but knowing he was going somewhere. His devotion to his business was inspiring. His family's contributions to the religious community in time and money are in the record books.

Members of the community called on him when something was needed for those who were less fortunate. He was always there. He was generous to a fault and has set a standard for all of us to follow.

In a Yom Kippur Sermon several years ago, Rabbi Joseph Weinberg, said:

"Always we are commanded to seize the day, to create a life which will be remembered as a blessing. Not how long, but how well did I live? Not how many honors did I obtain, but how honorable was my life. Not how many things did I acquire, but how much was I able to give."

This quote is very fitting for the life of Mitchell Robinson. I would like to offer my deepest sympathy to the Robinson family. Our Nation and our community have suffered a great loss.

HONORING DAVID SAYLES
ENGLISH

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Sayles English of Arlington, Virginia, as he joins the Arlington County Police Department.

Throughout most of his adult life, David English has devoted himself to the safety and protection of others. A 1989 graduate of Yorktown High School in Arlington, Virginia, Mr. English attended Western Maryland College prior to serving in the United States Army. His service in the military, most notably at Fort Greely, Alaska and Fort Detrick, Maryland, gave him a unique insight into helping his fellow man.

Following his honorable discharge from the military, Mr. English put his medical knowledge to work as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) while earning his paramedic's license. Shortly after earning his license, David returned to his hometown to work as a firefighter at Fire Station #8 in Arlington County, Virginia. As it has been his lifelong dream to work in law enforcement, David joined the Arlington County Police Department earlier this year.

Tomorrow morning, December 21, 2001, David Sayles English will graduate from the Arlington County Police Academy, officially becoming a Police Officer in Arlington, Virginia. He joins an illustrious group of men and women throughout our nation of whom I am proud. Let me extend my personal thanks to those who serve in uniform. If the efforts of