

bill. Moreover, while the argument for these tax cuts is that we need to spur additional investment in businesses and factories, this argument rings hollow given that businesses are currently struggling to eliminate the excess capacity that exists in many industries. I believe that the most effective stimulus the federal government can provide at this time is to expand demand for goods and services—and that the most effective way to expand that demand is to make up some of the lost income in households that have been hit by recent lay-offs.

In short, I believe that, like the first economic stimulus bill rammed through the House by the Republican leadership in October, this legislation is both unfair and unwise. It does too little to help the people who have been laid off and too much to help the people who are well off. Moreover, it does too little to stimulate the economy in the coming year and loses too much revenue in subsequent years. I urge my colleagues to vote against this poorly crafted legislation.

HUMANITY'S GREATNESS IN A TIME OF PERIL

HON. LOIS CAPPES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mrs. CAPPES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention to my colleagues, a thoughtful article by Frank Kelly that appeared in the Santa Barbara News-Press, entitled "Humanity's Greatness in a Time of Peril" on November 25, 2000.

Mr. Frank K. Kelly has been a journalist, a speechwriter for President Truman, Assistant to the Senate Majority Leader, Vice President of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, and Vice President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article:

[From the Santa Barbara News-Press, Nov. 25, 2001]

VOICES—HUMANITY'S GREATNESS IN A TIME OF PERIL

(By Frank K. Kelly)

In a time of trouble and sorrow, with fears of terrorism shadowing the future, 500 human beings gathered in Santa Barbara on Nov. 9 to honor two young leaders who have shown courage and compassion in lives of high achievement. The gathering was described as "An Evening for Peace," but it was far more than that. It was a celebration, a tremendous manifestation, of the creative powers of humanity.

Two Peace Leadership Awards were presented that evening by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. One went to Hafsat Abiola, founder of the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy, a dauntless advocate for human rights throughout the African continent. A beautiful young woman with a delicate face, she spoke of the struggles she had endured and the triumphs that had been achieved. When she finished, the people in the banquet room rose to their feet in a spontaneous ovation.

The second Peace Leadership Award was given to Craig Kielburger, founder of the Free the Children organization, who initiated a movement that led to the release of thousands of children from conditions of labor enslavement. He created it when he was 12 years old, stirred by the tragic fate of

a boy from Pakistan who was sold into bonded labor and killed when he protested against the treatment of children in his country. When Kielburger, now 18, completed his speech, he also received an ovation.

Bursts of affection and admiration flashed around that enormous room in wave after wave. When the two young leaders expressed their confidence in humanity's future, it was evident that their experiences had increased their awareness of the goodness and generosity existing in so many members of the human species. They had a glow of love and respect around them.

There were hundreds of students in that huge room, students from high school and colleges, students with a wide range of gifts and ambitions, students from many ethnic backgrounds. Their faces were shining with excitement. They were clearly inspired by the two young leaders who were being acclaimed.

I was among the hundreds of older persons who participated in that gathering of glorious beings. I lived through four wars and I had witnessed terrible sufferings. Yet I also witnessed noble acts in many places. In spite of wars and other calamities, in spite of terrorism and all the threats that existed, I was sure that human beings would go from height to height, achieving more in each generation.

The celebration on Nov. 9 convinced me again that Thomas Merton was right when he asserted in one of his books that it is "a glorious destiny to be a human being." I saw the light of that glory in the faces of the young and the old when they leaped to their feet to respond to a Nigerian woman and a Canadian man.

I was grateful for the privilege of being in that room on that marvelous night. I was grateful for the work of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in bringing so many wonderful persons together. I was grateful for the fact that I had participated in founding it and supporting it for 20 years.

I felt an exultance, which reminded me of the surge of joy I had felt when I took part in the liberation of Paris in August of 1944. I had never expected to ride into that city as a member of a victorious army. I had never expected to be embraced by so many people, to be hailed as a liberator. It was an ecstasy I had not earned. It was one of many gifts showered upon me in a fortunate life.

On the night of Nov. 9, I felt the exaltation that comes when many people are celebrating the mystery and the wonder of being human. We rejoiced together, we felt the endless possibilities for greatness that can occur when people acknowledge their unity in the spirit of love. We became fully aware that hatred and cruelty can be overcome, and there can be peace and justice in this world for all.

I strongly believe that every one who was in that room that night will carry the starburst of that celebration in their lives through all the pains and problems of the coming years. I thrill to the hope that a tremendous Age of Fulfillment is dawning for the whole human family.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY HONORS WORLD TRADE CENTER VICTIM MR. FOX WITH A POEM WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER JESSICA

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Plainsboro, New Jersey resident

and World Trade Center victim, Jeffrey L. Fox with a poem written by his thirteen year old daughter, Jessica. Jessica asked that I share her poem with the world and I am honored to do so:

A PLACE OF MEMORIES

The gleaming towers stood in the sky,
Majestic looking and up so high.
The sun shines down on towers so great,
No one knowing about their awful fate.
Without a warning a plane hit hard.
New York would be forever scarred.
Minutes later, another plane crashed,
Leaving the second tower extremely smashed.

The towers crumbled down to Earth
Because two planes crashed in their berth.
People beneath the towers ran.
Now the towers no longer stand.

The rescue workers worked non-stop,
Searching the rubble bottom to top.
People pulled out became less and less
And using their strength became a test.

The gleaming towers stood in the sky,
Majestic looking and up so high.
Where the twin towers used to be
Is now a place of memory.

At this time in our Nation's history, when we struggle to find solace and draw lessons from acts of terror against us, we gain strength and perspective from those families these atrocious acts left behind. We find strength in the memory of Jeffrey Fox and in the words of his brave and courageous daughter.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to honor the Fox family and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their legacy to our community and New Jersey.

HONORING THE HARD WORK AND PATRIOTISM OF THE CITIZENS OF VIDALIA, TOOMBS COUNTY, GA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11th, the people of Vidalia, GA took it upon themselves to undertake a project to show their support for America. The town of 10,000 did not have an American flag that stood in the middle of town, and they were driven to raise over \$3,000 to erect a flag pole which will permanently display the American flag in the center of town.

SPECIAL ORDER FOR VIDALIA FLAG POLE

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the dedication and hard work of some remarkable Americans; the citizens of Vidalia, GA. September 11th, 2001 affected every single one of us, and the 3 month anniversary of this tragedy served to remind us of that infamous day. All over the country people from different states, neighborhoods, and backgrounds have come together under a common bond as Americans. It has been no different in my home state of Georgia, and I would like to share with you today, Mr. Speaker, the dedication and patriotism of the good people of Vidalia. Vidalia is not a very large city having a population of 10,000. Yet many people may have heard of a particular crop that comes from Vidalia, the famous, sweet Vidalia Onion.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is time that these fine folks be known for more than just their onion.

In the aftermath of September 11th, the people of Vidalia took it upon themselves, to erect and commemorate a flag pole and American flag to fly over their town. Under the direction of Mrs. Lynette Reid and the local Daughters of the American Revolution, the people of Toombs' county seat went out and raised money from local citizens and companies to make this dream a reality. As a result of the hard work of its citizens, the city of Vidalia, GA now has an American flag that flies 24 hours a day, and is illuminated at night. It serves as a constant reminder of what we believe in and who we are. It is my honor to acknowledge them here today, and commend them for their quick work.

Mr. Speaker, it is actions like these that make me proud of our nation. Stories like these have occurred all across the country, and I want to thank each and every one who have been a part of America's response. I would especially like to thank the people of Vidalia, GA. The patriotism, devotion, and determination that they have demonstrated embodies some of the best American qualities.

I am also pleased, Mr. Speaker, in closing to submit some articles from the Vidalia Advance-Progress about this patriotic project.

[From the Advance-Progress, Nov. 14, 2001]

FLAG STAFF DEDICATED IN DOWNTOWN PARK

(By Kathy D. Bradford, Staff Reporter)

It may be considered by some as nothing short of a miracle.

A special ceremony was held Sunday afternoon in the Meadows Street Park to dedicate a 35-ft. illuminated flag staff and an American flag. An impressive gathering of citizens witnessed the patriotic event.

The desire to erect the flag staff originated in the October 3 meeting of the Vidalia Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. Less than two months after actually soliciting community support, the idea came to fruition.

"This program is designed to dedicate this flag staff and flag to the heroes of September 11," said Mrs. R. Hugh Reid, coordinator of the event.

"Remember, this is the 11th day, of the 11th month," she said. "This Veterans Day also coincides with the second month anniversary of the tragedy currently facing our nation."

Mrs. William F. Ledford, Past Regent of Vidalia DAR Chapter, and John Kea of the Downtown Vidalia Association, opened the ceremony with 11 tolls of the bell in the gazebo in the park, followed by the Color Guard of American Legion Post 97 presenting the flag of the United States of America.

All stood at attention as the flag was unfurled, raised to the top of the staff, lowered to half-staff and then raised again. As if on cue, the wind began to pick up and the flag, with all its glory, began to color the sky with red, white and blue.

Involving the youth of the area, Girl Scout Troop #355, Mrs. John Tyson, Troop Leader, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and the local Boy Scout Troop, Mr. Allen Rice, Scout Master, responded with the American's Creed.

A unison of voices filled the air as Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Toole led "The National Anthem" accompanied by the Vidalia Comprehensive High School band under the direction of Mr. Tim Quigley.

And then it came time for special recognition of the men and women who helped create the minor miracle. Noting the contributions of local citizens who have worked dili-

gently to see the event culminate on such a special day, Mrs. Reid named organizations and others who have played a role.

"We really appreciate our young people for their assistance," she said. "Dr. Tim Smith was very receptive to the idea." In his absence, students represented the local school system and included Victoria Waring and John Carroll, J.D. Dickerson Primary School; Tiffany Fowler, Sally D. Meadows Elementary School; Regan Morgan and Evander Baker, J.R. Trippe Middle School; and Matt Stanley, Student Government Association, and Blake Tillery, Senior Class President, Vidalia Comprehensive High School.

Gifts from organizations included American Legion Post #97, Mr. Hershel C. Connell, Commander, American Legion Post #97 Auxiliary, Ms. Denise Pitman, President; Downtown Vidalia Association, Mrs. Linda Clarke, President; Vidalia Lions Club, Mr. Joel Garrett, President; and Vidalia Women's Club, Mrs. Joe Brice, President.

Mrs. Reid further admonished the in-kind services of Harry Moses, Harry Moses Construction Company, Ron Lambert of Georgia Power Company and Jerry Fields of Vidalia-Lyons Concrete Company, all of whom worked together to erect the staff. One other company, who elected to remain anonymous, as a local electrician and Vietnam veteran who donated the equipment and installing the lighting necessary to keep the flag lit at night.

A bronze plaque will be embedded at the base of the flag staff. The plaque will be inscribed in dedication to the "victims and heroes of September 11, 2001," and designated that it was dedicated on November 11, 2001.

Congressman Jack Kingston was unable to attend the ceremony. In absentia, he forwarded the following to Mrs. Reid:

"Dear Friends: It is with great pleasure that I send my warmest greetings to you. Let me be the first to congratulate you on your initiative and patriotism during these days following September 11th. I am very proud of all that you have accomplished and I commend your hard work.

The money that you all have helped raise is a standing tribute to our country, and I can think of no better way to show this pride than the flag pole which you are dedicating today. I wish to thank each and every one of you for making this communitywide event possible and again want to express my gratitude to everyone in the 1st District. We have all been affected by September 11th, but we also have become a stronger nation. May God bless you, and may God bless America."

The ceremony concluded with everyone attending signing "God Bless America."

The eight-by-twelve foot flag will be flown day and night to display the patriotism and love of the United States as made evident by the rapid response of local citizens in making the project a reality.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL WYLIE SLATER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Michael Wylie Slater, a beloved environmentalist and activist, who passed away on December 8, 2001. Michael Slater was a compassionate, dedicated and active member of his community, located in the 14th Congressional District, which I represent. His passing is truly a loss to us all.

Michael Slater's commitment to environmental issues ultimately defined his career and his life. As President of the Friends of the Earth Foundation he had the opportunity to work on those environmental issues closest to his heart. Following his tenure as President, he continued his activism on environmental issues.

Michael Slater graduated from Stanford University. He began his career as an investor, but felt deeply connected to those issues which affect our Earth. He believed, correctly, that those issues which affect the earth affect all of us. Therefore, he devoted himself to working to make the Earth a better, safer and healthier place for us all to live. For this reason, he has been cited by many as not only an environmentalist, but a humanitarian; a fitting label for someone so committed to valuing and preserving humanity.

He shared his love of the environment and commitment to environmental issues with his wife of 34 years, Teri. Along with her work on environmental issues she has worked tirelessly as a preservationist to save precious landmarks and to ensure that important pieces of our history are maintained. A day rarely went by in which the two of them did not take in the beauty of flowers, plants and other natural wonders. They passed their appreciation and passion for the environment on to their two sons, Eric and Edward. Michael and Teri would often travel to wilderness locations together.

Michael Slater believed it was his obligation—and the obligation of all of us who are here today—to ensure that what we have today will be here for the next generation to enjoy tomorrow. These are the words Michael Slater lived by.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Michael Wylie Slater today and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring the life and legacy of this member of the community who will be so deeply missed.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, since its inception in 1975, the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, has been an important part of the Federal Government's "safety net" of programs for Americans living in poverty. Its effect on children is especially significant. Over the years, the EITC has succeeded in lifting more children out of poverty than any other government program.

The EITC was conceived as a "work bonus" alternative to a proposal to provide cash welfare to low-income two-parent families. It was also seen as a way to lighten the burden of Social Security taxes on low-income workers. Over the years, the credit has been expanded and increased. This program demonstrates the way in which government can improve the lives of its citizens in a meaningful way.

However, notable pockets of poverty remain in our country. For instance, 29 percent of all children in families having three or more children subsist at incomes below the poverty