

1975 to 1978 and then serving as Mayor of Baytown, Texas. He was a longtime member of the Baytown Boat Club. And he was a registered diving instructor, having taken up scuba diving in his sixties. In fact the Professional Association of Diving Instructors awarded him the title of "Eldest Active Divemaster in the World."

Mr. Hutto was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Hutto; his wife, Awline Hix Hutto; and his brother, Leon Hutto, who was shot down in the South Pacific during World War II. He is survived by his wife, Betty Bailey Hutto; sons, Dr. Rodney Hutto and his wife, Norma Jean; Dr. Richard Hutto and his wife, Diane; Dr. Dean Hutto and his wife, Gena; daughter, Cynda Brooke Hutto; brother Orvel and his wife, Ruth; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

It has been said that the ultimate measure of a person's life is the extent to which they made the world a better place. If this is the measure of worth in life, Emmett Hutto's family and friends can attest to the success of the life he led.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the Members of the House to join me in paying tribute to the life of Emmett Hutto. He touched our lives and our hearts, and he will be greatly missed.

IN SUPPORT OF TAX RELIEF

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for enactment of the extensive tax package forth by President George W. Bush to reduce the tax burden on all Americans.

I agree with the President's statement in his address to a joint session of Congress on February 27, 2001, that the "American people have been overcharged." There was a \$236 billion tax surplus during fiscal year 2000 and we expect a tax surplus of \$268 billion this year. If the people continue to be taxed at the same amount, the government will accrue a \$5.4 trillion surplus over a ten year period. This is not the government's money, but money each American taxpayer could use to pay for increases in energy costs, their children's college expenses, reducing credit card debt or save for retirement. Why should the government sit on a large tax surplus while each individual interested in investment could be receiving a maximal return? Taxpayers are due for a tax refund in order to resuscitate a slowing economy and keep it strong.

President Bush has proposed a bold and fair tax relief plan that will reduce the inequities of the current tax code and help ensure that America remains prosperous. His six key components—replacing the current tax rates with a simplified rate structure, doubling the child tax credit to \$1,000 per child, reducing the marriage penalty by reinstating the 10 percent deduction for two-earner couples, eliminating the death tax, expanding the charitable deduction to nonitemizers and making the Research and Experimentation tax credit permanent—touch the lives of all. In concert, these changes will enable all taxpayers to retain more of their own money and they will support our American economy.

Many of these measures have already been introduced by members of Congress. The passage of H.R. 3 is a positive first step in achieving a simpler tax structure by immediately reducing the marginal rates from 15 percent to 12 percent with President Bush's reduction of all brackets by 2006. It also helps families by repealing the mandatory reductions in the additional (three or more children) child tax credit and the earned income credit for taxpayers subject to the alternative minimum tax. These are positive steps for immediately helping those who need it most.

Some have expressed concern about the equity of President Bush's tax proposal and criticize it by comparing the amounts of money people in each tax bracket will "receive" if it passes. Under President Bush's plan, lower income individuals would actually receive a greater percentage of tax relief in relation to their current personal tax burden once all tax credits are considered. For instance, the marginal federal income tax rate would fall by over 40 percent for low-income families with two children and nearly 50 percent for families with one child.

Contrary to some charges, single filers falling in the 15 percent tax bracket after the tax cut will also receive a tax cut. They will have their first \$6000 taxed at 10 percent rather than 15 percent, or if they have a dependent, the first \$10,000 would be taxed at this lower rate. In the case of couples filing jointly, the first \$12,000 would be taxed at this lower rate. If no other tax credits are claimed, someone filing as an individual without dependents would expect a \$300 tax break per year. This can range anywhere from 7 to 12 percent less in total taxes.

One argument made against these tax proposals is that they reduce our capacity to pay down the national debt. I agree strongly that paying down the national debt must be a priority. Both the President and I believe that we can both pay down the debt and have tax relief. In fact, the President's plan places debt elimination before tax cuts in his budget outline submitted to Congress on February 28, because retiring the debt can enhance the viability of his tax cut. The charge that those who favor a tax cut oppose debt reduction is wrong. The President's plan will accelerate debt retirement payments to record rates by proposing to eliminate \$2 trillion in public debt over the next 10 years. Actually, the President's budget pays down the debt so aggressively that it effectively cannot pay off all the debt when it would be possible to do so in 2007. The remaining \$1 trillion in public debt, which is composed of savings and special bonds, cannot be retired until after 2011 when it becomes due. Even after the President's tax cut and spending priorities, the government is still projected to have \$1.3 trillion in excess cash balances in 2011.

Budget projections these past several years have been overly conservative. \$850 billion of unexpected tax revenue was collected, and combined with debt service savings, revenue intake underestimates contributed to about a \$1 trillion surplus. The Congressional Budget Office and the Administration continue to use conservative estimates in order to accommodate slower growth. Theoretical projections are a necessary part of the budgetary process and policy making each year. Consideration of the future of Social Security, Medicare and debt reduction are all based on theoretical projec-

tions. There are inherent uncertainties in making 10 year budget projections; however, the President's Budget creates a \$1 trillion reserve over the same amount of time. This can be used to aid in Medicare and Social Security modernization. In all, the tax cut will only amount to one quarter of the projected surplus, leaving room for program maintenance, growth and unexpected situations. I am proud that Congress has made protecting Social Security its highest priority with the passage of H.R. 2, the Social Security and Medicare Lock-Box Act. Now, 100 percent of the Social Security surplus cannot be touched for other government spending. President Bush has pledged to keep the promises that America has made to its senior citizens by signing this bill.

We must eliminate the death tax—a major reason for the dissolution of family-owned small businesses, farms and ranches upon the death of the owner. Originally enacted as a temporary tax to raise funds for national security emergencies, this tax first helped create our Navy in 1797 and fund the Civil and Spanish-American wars. In 1916, the tax was made permanent. Once the current \$650,000 threshold is met, the tax consumes up to 55 percent of the remaining estate. This money will have already been taxed first as income, then possibly as capital gains or property. The impact on Eastern Washington farmers and ranchers is particularly severe. In order to be viable, even the smallest farm operation must have about \$500,000 tied up in equipment. If the farmer owns the land, the value is at least \$1.5 million. On paper, this farmer is worth \$2 million or more. This makes it difficult for the farmer to pass his property and business on to his family after death. The same is true for small businesses, where the owner's children are not the only ones affected. Those who lose their jobs when the business is partitioned and sold face even more dire circumstances. I support the legislation that would phase-out the death tax over ten years. Defeated only by President Clinton's veto during the last Congress, I hope it can pass this year.

This tax package is right for our country. It meets our needs and obligations for the future while helping all of Americans who pay taxes. It is becoming more and more evident that we need to do something to strengthen the economy. Tax relief is needed now.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE J.W. SUMMERS

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Judge J.W. Summers, a leader in the Texas judicial system and a fine man who dedicated his life to public service.

Judge Summers had something that many in this chamber undoubtedly envy—an unblemished political career, in which he never suffered a defeat in his various races for public office. But it wasn't his winning streak that made him stand out, but rather it was his reputation for integrity and impartiality in the administration of justice that earned him the respect and admiration of all of us who knew him.

Judge Summers was destined for leadership from his early years, when he graduated from Rusk High School as an Eagle Scout and valedictorian of his class. Judge Summers served bravely in the Navy during World War II, and graduated with honors from a great institution of higher learning—the University of Texas in Austin.

But Judge Summers didn't stay in Austin—he came back to his roots in Rusk. After several years of private practice, he served as city attorney, county attorney, and county judge of Cherokee County for eight years.

Judge Summers will be remembered for his many successes as County Judge of Cherokee County. Every year of his administration, Judge Summers won a top financial rating for the county. He payed off remaining debt on the county courthouse, oversaw the construction of the Cherokee County Agricultural Annex Building, and secured the development of many State Farm-to-Market roads, as well as the US Highway 69 stretch from Rusk to Jacksonville.

From 1957 to 1978 he served as District Judge for the Second Judicial District. After 21 years in the job, he continued his service as Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals for the 12th Supreme Judicial District of Texas, a position he held until 1989.

Judge Summers and his wife Inez were active members of their community, participating in the First United Methodist Church in Rusk, where each served as chairman of the Administrative Council. Judge Summers was also president of the Kiwanis Club and a member of Euclid Lodge Number 45. Judge Summers passed away on November 26, 2000.

Our prayers are with Mrs. Summers, the couples' children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and their friends and family members who will share their grief—and their memories—in this time of sadness.

TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I am here today as a member of Congress is that I was inspired by some excellent professors as a college student.

These professors taught me new ways of looking at the world, and kindled an excitement about learning that still burns today. Where all of my professors helped me acquire knowledge common to liberal arts students of my era, these select few not only taught me, but also ignited my passion for public service.

This nation is blessed with many excellent professors, but one sector of higher education has a harder time than others attracting the best and the brightest. This sector is the tribal college and university system.

The average salary for teachers at tribal colleges and universities is approximately \$25,000—one-half that of the salary of a teacher at a state college or university.

A sad consequence of these low salaries is that tribal colleges and universities are a training ground for new teachers to get their feet wet; they make short stops before moving on to better paying jobs at other colleges and uni-

versities. As a result, the students suffer from both a lack of good teachers and good curriculum.

The Tribal College and University Loan Forgiveness Act gives tribal colleges and universities a tool to attract and keep excellent teachers despite the salary gap.

By providing loan forgiveness, tribal colleges and universities can bring something additional to the negotiation table. Teachers who commit to working in a tribal college or university that have Direct, Perkins, or Guaranteed Loans that are not in default, are eligible for loan forgiveness for up to five years. Total loan forgiveness will be provided for up to \$15,000 in the aggregate of the loans the student currently has.

Tribal colleges and universities, teachers, and students will all benefit from this bill. Furthermore, the Native American communities who send their tribal members to these institutions also benefit.

Tribal colleges and universities not only prepare students for jobs both on and off the reservations, but they also offer programs to the local communities such as adult education, local economic development, and remedial and high school equivalency programs.

The passage of this bill, with bipartisan support, will help these institutions continue their work of not only educating, but bringing out the very best of tribal students and communities.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATTING TUBERCULOSIS

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas, Mr. REYES, for introducing this important resolution.

Dr. David Heymann of the World Health Organization once described tuberculosis as “a disease once thought to be under control, which has returned with a vengeance to kill 1.5 million people a year.”

TB was once the leading cause of death in the United States. In the 1940s, scientists discovered drugs that would treat TB, and infection rates began to decline. Since that time, however, infection rates both in the U.S. and abroad have increased dramatically. Today, one third of the world's population has a latent TB infection. These increases have not gone unnoticed by international organizations. In fact, in 1993, the World Health Organization declared tuberculosis a global emergency.

These increases in infection rates are due to a number of causes. Increases in HIV/AIDS infection rates are accelerating the spread of TB. In addition, poorly supervised or incomplete treatment threatens to make TB incurable as multidrug resistant TB cases rise.

This problem is particularly serious in underdeveloped countries. A total of 22 countries are home to 80 percent of TB cases. Tuberculosis is particularly prevalent in India, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Russia, and parts of Latin America. The problem with TB poses a long term threat to global health. It is estimated that, if efforts to fight TB are not strengthened, 35 million people will die of the disease in the next 20 years.

H. Res. 67 addresses many of these problems. The bill recognizes the importance of combating TB on a worldwide basis and acknowledges the severe impact that TB has on minority populations in the US. By passing the resolution, we are recognizing the importance of substantially increasing US investment in international TB control. The bill also emphasizes the importance of efforts to eliminate TB in our own nation.

It is my hope that by passing this resolution, Congress will make a commitment to fighting TB both on the national and global level.

CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 180th anniversary of Greek Independence. Almost two centuries ago this month, the Greeks rose up against the Ottoman Empire to establish a modern Greek state. Greeks and Greek Americans everywhere can look back proudly on the accomplishments of their people over the last 180 years. But Americans also owe a large debt to Greece for its friendship and democratic traditions. All Americans should take time on this anniversary to reflect on the shared values, traditions and history of the United States and the Hellenic Republic.

When our founding fathers in this country sought inspiration for our democracy, they looked back to the republics of ancient Greece. The Greeks, likewise, looked to the United States for inspiration and support as they sought to establish their own independent nation. Since that time, many Greeks came to the United States in search of freedom and opportunity—so many, that for a time in the early twentieth century, one out of every four young Greek men came to the United States. Their contributions have been felt in the Arts, the Sciences, and government.

Greece itself has also been a true friend of the United States. From Greece's valiant resistance of Nazi Germany in World War Two, to her efforts supporting the world community in the Gulf War, Greece has stood beside the United States. This cooperation is based not just on shared interests, but on the stronger bond of shared values. And when these values have been threatened, the Greek nation has stepped forward to defend these values, even when it means risking the lives of her sons and daughters.

I mention this because the United States should not take this commitment lightly. Just as we here in America hesitate before we send our troops in harm's way, so do other democracies. Yet, over the last century, Greece has stood by the United States. The United States needs to stand by Greece.

As a mature democracy, Greece is our strongest ally in a region in turmoil. “While relations have improved between Greece and Turkey, real issues remain between these two historic antagonists. Cyprus, the Aegean Islands, and the treatment of minorities in Turkey are all issues that demand resolution. This administration must compel the Turkish government to negotiate in good faith on these