

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BACK TO HEALTH MONTH

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday was the first day of "Back to Health Month," a national campaign created to increase awareness of back pain as well as possible causes and prevention. Sponsored by the North American Spine Society, this month is designed to educate Americans about their spine and how they can prevent common back injuries.

The facts of back pain speak for themselves. Did you know that at some point in their lives, more than 80 percent of American adults will experience back pain? Or, that 1 out of 14 adults will visit a physician this year due to back or neck pain, and that back pain is the second most common reason people visit a physician? These statistics demonstrate how important it is to raise awareness about this health problem that affects too many Americans.

One famous American who suffers from back pain is 1993 Major League Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, Reggie Jackson. Jackson was a two-time World Series MVP and Major League Player of the Year in 1973. During his legendary career, Jackson was named to the Major League All-Star team fourteen times. However, last July, like so many other Americans, following a spine injury, Jackson underwent emergency spine surgery and has been undergoing spine rehabilitation ever since.

Another highlight of "Back to Health Month" is an event to distribute information about back pain. "Back to Health Day" on Capitol Hill will be held on April 24th, in the Rayburn Gold Room. "Back to Health Day" will provide an array of educational materials, including guidelines to a healthy back, exercises to strengthen your back, and how to prevent back pain. In addition, representatives from the North American Spine Society will be on hand to discuss commonly asked questions about back pain, causes and prevention. I encourage my colleagues to join us for "Back to Health Day" as we learn the most effective ways to prevent and alleviate back pain.

I commend the North American Spine Society for organizing "Back to Health Month" and for their commitment to ensuring that Americans learn to keep their backs healthy.

TAX TREATMENT OF BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS ISSUED BY THE AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to clarify the tax

treatment of bonds and other obligations issued by the American Samoa Government.

Under current federal law, the territories of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have the authority to issue municipal bonds to foster a broad range of economic activity. These bonds are exempt from income taxation by the federal government, state governments, territorial governments, municipal governments, and the government of the District of Columbia. This is known as triple tax exemption. In American Samoa, on the other hand, only industrial development bonds receive triple tax exempt status. The income from all other bonds is subject to taxation by federal, state and municipal governments.

The legislation I am introducing today will give to American Samoa the same authority already held by all other states and territories.

The legislation deletes the current reference to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code which excludes interest on qualifying bonds from income, as that cross reference is not necessary. It is the intent of the legislation, however, that interest on qualifying bonds issued by the Government of American Samoa or any of its agencies be exempt from taxation. As with other jurisdictions, the bonds would not be exempt from federal, state or local gift, estate, inheritance, legacy, succession or other wealth transfer taxes which may at any time be in effect.

The legislation uses new language in describing the bonds to reflect changes made to the Internal Revenue Code in 1986.

Finally, this bill repeals current law on this subject—Section 202 of Public Law 98-454 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1670). Any bonds issued after enactment of the new provision would be subject to the new law; any bonds issued before that date would remain valid and be subject to the current Section 1670 of Title 48.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on April 3, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and missed Rollcall votes numbered 76 and 77. Rollcall vote 76 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 768, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act. Rollcall vote 77 was on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 91, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the human rights situation in Cuba.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on both H.R. 768 and H. Res. 91.

TRIBUTE TO TOM KRIEGISH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Kriegish upon the occasion of his retirement as Chief of the Electrical Division of the state of Michigan's Bureau of Construction Codes. Tom has spent 35 years to working in the electrical industry and for the past 15 years he has used his vast array of knowledge and training to ensure public confidence in the safety of buildings and structures throughout the state.

Such work is critical to the well-being of citizens all over Michigan and Tom has always approached his job with extraordinary dedication and energy. Tom's work ethic and positive attitude in dealing with management, co-workers and customers have served as a shining example for others to follow. Tom has proved in his years of service that it is possible to exhibit character and professionalism in a job, while simultaneously earning the friendship of those with whom and for whom you work.

Tom's successful efforts in ensuring the electrical safety of Michigan homes and buildings often took him on the road. His time away from home certainly was a sacrifice for his wife, Vicki, and three daughters, Leslie, Sandy and Jill. Michigan residents owe a debt of gratitude both to Tom and his family for an unfailing devotion to duty.

As an electrical inspector, Tom became a legend for his ability to quickly react to a problem and solve it satisfactorily. His responsiveness came in handy during his frequent travels in northern Michigan. Once, Tom, who was known to miss a curve or two on slippery winter roads, found his vehicle heading straight for a dump truck hauling a backhoe. Showing his acumen for swift reaction, Tom regained enough control of his vehicle to bury it in a snowbank. Always faithful to the mission at hand, Tom had plenty of time to reflect on electrical inspections protocol while waiting for a wrecker to arrive.

On a more serious note, Tom has always displayed a willingness to give back to the industry to which he dedicated his life. His active role in the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, including terms as President and Executive Board Chairman, have contributed greatly to the industry and to the general public by developing professionalism and expertise among his peers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deep appreciation to Tom and his family for outstanding service and in wishing them well in all future endeavors.

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