

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE FRESNO CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fresno Center for New Americans (FCNA) on their 10 year anniversary. Their work makes a critical difference in the community and the lives of many new Americans.

The Fresno Center for New Americans is a non-profit organization that assists new Americans in becoming productive, self-fulfilled, and self-sufficient members of the community. They also foster cultural preservation and promote cross-cultural understanding.

FCNA was established in 1991 as a non-profit organization. The organization addresses a wide variety of social issues, including health education, employment assistance and placement, and acculturation services. FCNA's vision is to act as a resource to refugees and new Americans, and to contribute to their quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fresno Center for New Americans for helping new citizens become productive members of our society. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Center for New Americans many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO HARLAND B. JOHNSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose devotion to the youth in my district is an inspiration to us all. Mr. Harland B. Johnson helped start the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz, California in 1966, and he served as its founding President of the Board of Directors. On May 11, 2001, Mayor Tim Fitzmaurice of the City of Santa Cruz will proclaim the day as "Harland B. Johnson Day", and I am proud to be able to salute him here, Mr. Speaker.

Since Mr. Johnson first began the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz, he has continued to sit on its Board of Directors. It is this 35 year tenure that is the milestone we are all celebrating this coming May, and I believe that his commitment to the youth of Santa Cruz is a shining example of dedication and community service.

In his 35 years with the Club, Mr. Johnson has raised literally hundreds of thousands of dollars to ensure the operation and maintenance of the facilities and programs that the Boys and Girls Club offers. Because of his tireless efforts, tens of thousands of Santa Cruz youth have had the opportunity to utilize

all that the Club has to offer. This safe environment, which has served as a constant for several generations of schoolchildren, has provided a place for the community to come together and help our children become enriched, educated and dedicated individuals.

Harland B. Johnson has helped make the Boys and Girls Club possible, and has been the driving force behind the success that this institution. For all of his work and dedication for the past 35 years, and for the many years left to come, I join with the City of Santa Cruz in honoring Mr. Johnson.

TAXATION ON MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring attention to the following article by Mr. Dennis Fitzgerald proposing an end to taxation on members of the U.S. armed forces.

George W. Bush has a golden opportunity to effect a meaningful tax cut, spark our flagging economy and restore morale and loyalty in the military in one fell swoop. He should—immediately—end all taxes on members of the armed forces.

It has always seemed to me mildly absurd that those who are being paid by taxes also have to pay them. It would seem that by ending military taxation, President Bush could increase the buying power of our military and at the same time relieve them from the burden of filing federal tax returns. He would also go a long way toward keeping the best people in the service.

Military stationed in a combat zone pay no taxes now. Why should they have to pay while training for that mission? Some training is more dangerous than some combat. And people who change jeep transmissions in a combat zone are often under no more peril than those performing the same task stateside.

It is no secret that re-enlistment rates have reached an all time low. The all-volunteer military is woefully short of competent middle management. And only the Marines last year filled their enlistment quotas. Some have cited the opportunities presented by a booming economy as the reason for the best captains leaving the service before their time.

But the real reason for these departures is morale and a lack of financial incentive. Thirty years ago a career military person could count on a living wage while on active duty, discounted food, gasoline and other creature comforts through the PX system and the GI education bill amounting to a month of education for each month served up to 36 months.

The retirement benefits, if one served 20 or more years, were what kept most "lifers" going. These were one half to three fourths of

the highest salary and medical services and PX aid club privileges for life. Both retirement and active duty benefits have been severely curtailed, leading to a malaise that even George Washington's army would recognize.

The solution is a tax-break—big time. There are approximately 1.4 million service people on active duty with total salaries of about \$42 billion. Tax revenues from this group currently stand at about \$12 billion. This is a drop in the bucket when one considers total tax revenues of \$950 billion.

This move would encourage people both to join and stay in the military. In the worst case it would cost the country little, and, if the Laffer curve is still operational, perhaps would actually increase tax revenues.

Increasing the disposable income of service people makes good economic sense. The newly formed XFL is killing to attract male audiences between 18 and 32. Why? Because they have a lot of money to spend. It should dawn on this administration that they have a lot of that cohort in their employ. And if they freed up their income, they might just spend it on stuff.

Camp LeJeune North Carolina on its web site proudly boasts it contributes some \$3 billion to the local economy. Fine. With a tax cut it might just contribute \$4 billion. And with the multiplier effect, this would pump tens of billions of dollars into an economy that most agree is flagging. And part that increased revenue would find its way to the U.S. Treasury through increased income and excise taxes on civilians who sell to service people.

Congress, especially those members from the South, should support this measure. Increased revenue from businesses surrounding military bases has always warmed their hearts-and filled their campaign chests. With the military tax cut adopted, there would be an easier haul through Congress for a more far-reaching bill later in the year.

These practical considerations aside, the major reason for this measure would be to put pride back in our military. Those on active duty in the armed forces should consider themselves so special that the government exempts them from paying taxes.

In addition to saving administrative headaches, increasing disposable income, bumping up total tax revenues and attracting good people for the military, a zero tax rate would add a certain all-encompassing eclat to serving that medals, decorations or flag ceremonies could never replace.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRELANDS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, SANDUSKY, OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, as Sandusky's first hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, which

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

joined with Sandusky Memorial Hospital in 1985 to create Firelands Community Hospital, has cared for generations of Sandusky area families. It gives me great pleasure today to commemorate the hospital's 125th anniversary and its long tradition of providing quality health care to the community.

The hospital can trace its roots to 1876, when Wilborforce Farr, the minister of Grace Church, Sandusky, and other community leaders founded Good Samaritan Hospital, a place where everyone could receive health care, regardless of their financial or social situation. For the past 125 years, the hospital has played a vital role in the lives of Sandusky area residents.

In 1985, Firelands Community Hospital was established through the union of Good Samaritan and Sandusky Memorial Hospitals. At the time the merger of these two institutions was considered a bold, but necessary move. The federal government's push to lower health care costs was forcing hospitals to reconsider how they did business. Those who did not adapt to the changing health care climate would suffer serious financial trouble.

Although the decision to consolidate was not an easy one, the Board of Trustees and Professional Staffs of both hospitals had the foresight and initiative to put the needs of the community first. Their efforts provided the foundation for Firelands Community Hospital's role as one of the area's leading comprehensive health care systems.

Today, Firelands Community Hospital continues to provide new and innovative services and programs to meet the needs of the Sandusky area community. More than 7000 inpatients and 250,000 inpatients are served annually at four Sandusky facilities. In recent surveys, Firelands has been rated the best in Erie County for quality of physician care, personal care and attention, most modern technology, physical environment and range of services.

For the past one hundred twenty-five years Sandusky, area residents have entrusted their health care needs to Firelands Community Hospital, and I am confident they will continue to do so for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO ROGERS HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rogers High School and its participants in the "We the People The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals.

I am pleased to recognize the class from Rogers High School who represented Arkansas in the national competition. The outstanding young people who participated are: David Clay, Jessica Diaz, Mitch Dinowitz, Marcus Emerson, Kenni Floyd, Haris Hasic, Jared Janacek, Amanda Lay, Ashley Marcum, Dylan Mory, John O'Connor, Josh Reece, Stephen Reed, Kyle Schoeller, Brian Shook, Bethany Simmons, Luke Siversen, Cody Steussy, Zack Taylor, David Young. The class is coached by Brenda Patton.

"We the People The Citizen and the Constitution" is the nation's most exten-

sive program dedicated to educating young people about our Constitution. Over 26 million students participate in the program, administered by the Center for Civic Education. The national finals, which includes representatives from every state, simulates a congressional hearing in which students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges.

I wish these bright students the best of luck at the "We the People The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals. They represent the Third District of Arkansas well, and I wish them all the best in their future academic pursuits.

THIS YEAR, EARTH DAY MEANS
MORE THAN EVER BEFORE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, America celebrated its 31st annual Earth Day. In the past, Earth Day has been a day of both preservation and celebration. The day has symbolized our commitment to preserving the Earth's beauty for the enjoyment of future generations. This year, however, Earth Day means much more. This year, we are not using Earth Day as a catalyst for the creation of new and innovative ways to keep our environment clean and healthy. This year, we are not spending Earth Day talking about reducing air pollution and cleaning up the water we drink. This year, Earth Day is not a celebration of the environmental accomplishments of the past 31 years.

Instead, this year, we are spending Earth Day toe-to-toe with the Bush Administration to simply maintain the status quo of our country's environmental policies. This year, we are spending Earth Day fighting against the special interests of oil and gas companies. This year, we are celebrating Earth Day with a return to the careless and unhealthy environmental practices of the 1970s. This year, Earth Day means more than it has ever meant before.

In the first 100 days of President Bush's term in office, the Administration has sought to eliminate nearly every major environmental advancement of the past twenty years. Whether it is trying to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), failing to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions into the air, or halting a plan to lower arsenic levels in drinking water, the Bush Administration has made it clear that it is not serious about protecting our environment.

In Florida, we are facing the relentlessness of the oil and gas industries. As recently as last Sunday, the Bush Administration restated its plan to auction nearly six million acres off of the coast of Florida's Panhandle for the purposes of drilling for oil and natural gas. This is a plan that Floridians have both feared and rejected. Florida has maintained a position that any drilling will not occur within 100 miles of Florida's coast. While Florida's neighboring states have chosen to move forward with offshore drilling programs, the people of Florida have recognized the environmental dangers of offshore drilling and chosen not to move forward with any such program.

Drilling off the coast of Florida's Panhandle could have devastating outcomes. Studies

show that the cost of offshore drilling far outweighs the benefits. The potential for oil spills and life-threatening accidents is there. The construction of oil rigs, combined with continued drilling, will undoubtedly disrupt the marine ecosystem that currently exists. One only has to look at pictures of an oil rig sinking off the coast of Brazil to recognize the real dangers of offshore drilling. Now, the Administration is seeking not only to destroy Florida's already delicate environment, but to do it against the obvious wishes of Florida's people and government.

This year, we must view Earth Day as an opportunity to rally our troops and fight against the special interests that have been dictating environmental roll backs for the past 100 years. If the Administration will not fight against the oil and gas companies, then we must. We have a responsibility to recognize the role that we play in preserving our environment. If we do not recognize and accept this responsibility, then no one will.

CONGRATULATING JOHN DIENER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Diener for receiving the Award of Distinction from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis.

The award is the highest designation given by the college to individuals whose contributions enrich the image and reputation of the college and enhance its ability to provide public service.

Diener earned a degree in agricultural economics in 1974. He worked as a pest control advisor, specializing in viticulture, for six years before beginning a farm operation in 1980. In 20 years his farm grew from 640 acres to 4,500 acres. He began organic production practices and helped develop Greenway Organic Farms.

Diener has supported research and started field studies on reclaiming farmland that suffers from high underground water tables. This sort of research has set the foundation for growers to grow crops on acreage considered too salty. The success of his new farming methods can be seen by the abundant harvesting of crops on land that had previously been considered non-fertile soil.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate John Diener on his Award of Distinction. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John and wishing him many more years of continued success.

COMMENDING THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
FRESHWATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to commend an outstanding group of Virgin Islanders—Helen George-Newton, Eldra Malone-Drew, Ava Stagger, Carol