

starting his own company. Donald owned 2 converted B-26 Bombers which he flew for the US Forest Service.

On the Morning of July 16, 1976, Donald was on a slurry run when his B-26 struck a high mountain cliff near the fire as it was starting its sweep into the fire to drop a load of retardant. Donald was protecting Federal BLM lands at the time of his death.

Mr. Speaker, four men gave their lives protecting Federal land during the Battlement Creek fire in July of 1976. Donald A. Goodman and his crew will be honored by the citizens of the Battlement Creek area for their courage and bravery. I would ask that Congress honor them and thank them for their work.

Don's family should be proud of what he accomplished in his life and what he did for the people of Battlement Creek.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT CHEN TO
AMERICA

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, today we have the special privilege of welcoming to our country a companion on the pathway of freedom and respect for individual rights. President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan walks with us on the road to expanded liberty and equality. His commitment, to stand up and speak out for democracy on behalf of the Taiwanese people, entitles him to a warm and open welcome in the cradle of liberty.

We hope that President Chen's historic visit will demonstrate to the world that the fraternal ties of freedom are the most enduring, gratifying, and unbreakable bonds between people and nations. America and Taiwan share a noble expectation. We hope to see all the world's peoples exercising their fundamental right to self-government. We believe that democratic principles offer the best chance for stability and opportunity in every country and on every continent. When a democratic government leads every nation, prosperity and opportunity will be attainable conditions for everyone.

In Taiwan and in America, our people believe that, for every citizen, the ability to vote for one's leaders is a fundamental and universal human right. We believe that legitimate governments are granted the right to exercise power by their people. We believe that this grant of power flows up from the governed not down from the government.

Every fair and just government respects this principle. Governments that do not respect it can be neither.

One year ago, the people of Taiwan proudly completed the first democratic transition of power in their history. That peaceful transfer of power is the essence of democracy. It was all the more inspiring because the Taiwanese people ignored a campaign of intimidation that was designed to coerce voters into rejecting President Chen. That Communist bluster failed to move the free people of Taiwan. Once again, freedom trumped fear.

The passion for freedom is firmly rooted in the soil of Taiwan. Taiwan is an oasis of freedom. Several years ago, during a visit to Tai-

pei, I saw the amazing spirit and vitality shown by the Taiwanese people. The principles of capitalism and freedom were blossoming across Taiwan. We are rightfully honoring that passion for freedom by allowing the President of Taiwan to visit America.

The record in Taiwan should be an example for other nations: Freedom and democracy work.

We hope that President Chen and his delegation feel the same emotions I felt when I was in Taipei as they visit the United States. Texas and Houston are America at her best. Texans appreciate and understand freedom. We know that it requires both sacrifice and responsibility. And we are especially proud to host President Chen's delegation for a visit.

We hope that President Chen's visit will lead to enhanced ties between Taiwan and the United States. We share commerce, culture and a devotion to the principles of freedom and democracy. He is a worthy friend and we offer him a heartfelt welcome to the United States.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX
RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2001, after extensive negotiations, the Senate agreed to a ten-year budget plan that provides for the consideration of significant tax relief and sets in place a responsible spending plan. I was glad that the Senate acted in a bipartisan manner passing a budget that offers immediate tax relief for millions of middle-class families by shifting part of the benefits to lower-wage earners. The Senate's action demonstrates that when both sides are prepared to compromise the American people win. It is unfortunate that the House Republican Leadership refuses to follow the example set in the Senate and work with Democratic Members of Congress in constructing a balanced and fair tax package that benefits America's working families.

I support tax relief. I support lowering the tax burden on married couples by eliminating the marriage penalty and I favor the immediate doubling of the Child Tax Credit from \$500 to \$1,000 per child. We should extend tax relief for working families who pay more payroll tax than income tax and make the Child Tax Credit refundable. Unfortunately, today's vote only offers a solution to part of the problem of high taxes. The House Republican Leadership has chosen to resurrect a tax bill that provides nearly half of the benefits to the richest one-percent of Americans. I agree that we need to lower the burden of income taxes on many families, but I fail to understand why, when presented with the opportunity to address other important tax items, the Republican Leadership fails to work with Members of the other party. The Senate has chosen the path of compromise and embraced the spirit of bipartisanship in crafting a budget that makes room for a tax cut and also meets our obligations. I am disappointed that the House Leadership insists on jamming through an irresponsible tax cut that fails to offer relief for millions of married couples or small businessman. We

can do better and it is my desire for Congress to ultimately pass a balanced and comprehensive tax relief package.

Today's vote is not the final word on providing long-term tax relief to American families. Congress will have an opportunity to consider a package of tax cuts that is fair and that includes relief for millions of other Americans. I sincerely hope that the House Republican Leadership will choose to work with their Senate colleagues in a constructive fashion to incorporate additional balanced tax proposals that encourage savings, help married couples, and allow family businesses to plan for the future.

SALUTING FORMER DeKALB COUNTY
COMMISSIONER WILLIAM C.
BROWN

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute former DeKalb County Commissioner, Dr. William C. "Bill" Brown, a man whose heart is huge, counsel is wise, and guidance is never misleading. His demeanor commands the respect of all who are in his presence, and his spirit radiates truth, honesty, and an undying love for all people. I want to thank him from the bottom of my heart for his constant support of my efforts to serve the residents of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Georgia. I have never known a moment when I could not look to him for help and knowing this has always been a great source of comfort. I pray that those of us who are to follow in his footsteps, will be wise enough to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility and consider others before ourselves. I celebrate you now and always in spirit and in love.

AMERICAN PATRIOTS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today, we pause in remembrance to honor all of America's patriots who gave what Lincoln called "the last full measure of devotion." This spirit of remembrance was born out of the dark depths of the bloodiest, most divisive conflict in our history—a war where more than 620,000 men and women lost their lives.

On April 25th 1866, a number of women in Columbus, Mississippi went to decorate the graves of their fallen. Near the final resting places of the Confederate soldiers were other graves—graves holding the remains of Union soldiers who had died on the same bloody battlefields.

Those women wondered who would remember the enemy soldiers buried so far from their loved ones. Moved by compassion, kindness and sorrow, they decorated all the graves they found—those of their own and those of their fallen enemies. Their acts captured the imagination of our entire country and became the foundation upon which our current observance

of Memorial Day is built. In 1971, Congress expanded the Memorial Day tradition to include all soldiers who have died in service to our nation.

Turning back the clock, the great patriot Thomas Paine once said:

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country. But he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

These strong words spoke of a special kind of patriotic devotion and love of country that was needed if the colonists were going to win their struggle for independence. These words have become timeless and have continually rang true in our times of crisis.

However, I would have to say that true patriotism goes beyond waving our country's flag or singing the National Anthem. Don't get me wrong, those are important gestures, but true patriotism demands loyalty to the ideals that lie behind those gestures.

Our American patriots were not born with this pride, nor did they learn it in books. It's a pride that has taken root in their souls, growing greater as they experience the true meaning of freedom, liberty and prosperity. Patriotism is more sincere than attitudes of self-righteousness—it is the guardian of our Constitution. Patriotism is why America has prospered and grown to such greatness in a mere two centuries.

When our country's first army gathered under George Washington in the summer of 1775, it was truly a citizen's army. Farmers, shopkeepers and tradesmen left their loved ones to rid our land of British rule once and for all. There were few uniforms and even less weapons, but these brave men were willing to battle Britain's best troops and Europe's fiercest mercenaries. These first American patriots believed in three essential ideals, independence from foreign tyranny, human equality, and democracy.

It is our American patriots that will bear any hardship, will overcome any obstacle, and will conquer any foe in the pursuit of liberty and justice—for themselves, their children, their countrymen, and others who they will never know. It is our American patriots that have protected this great nation in the past, and will be the author of our bright future. It is our American patriots that we remember today.

Unfortunately, not every American will take time today to visit the graves of those who have been taken by war, but every American should take the time to remember those who gave everything on behalf of our common good. Today from Omaha Beach to Arlington National Cemetery we honor the memory of American veterans whose remains consecrate the soil throughout the world. Let us promise that their lives and sacrifices shall not have been offered in vain.

We must uphold the memories of their heroism with our respect, reverence, and heartfelt admiration. Those who have died on the field of battle deserve our enduring thoughts. It is our duty to make sure America remembers the martyrs of freedom's cause. It is our obligation to keep alive the great hopes of the American people, as they are embodied in the principles outlined in our nation's Constitution.

We cherish the hope that the ideals of peace, freedom and prosperity will light our way through the 21st century. Memorial Day is a celebration of that hope. It is the day we re-

member and honor those who lost their lives fighting for our nation. The men and women we remember on Memorial Day demonstrated the highest form of faith in the triumph of good over evil. Today we pause to remember the 26 million patriots living today who have served in the armed forces, and the more than one million who have died in America's wars.

Today we recognize the power and virtue of their sacrifice. We remember those who gave their lives to strengthen and preserve the invaluable gift of freedom. In the dark hours of war and conflict, American patriots have answered the call, and they're the reason that the United States is the mightiest, wealthiest, and most secure nation on earth today. Should the day come when our American patriots remain silent in the face of armed aggression, then the cause of freedom will have been lost.

Today, 179 of the world's 193 sovereign states elect their lawmakers. That means the earth is 93 percent covered by democracy—a greater proportion than water. Clearly, those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom did so for a supreme cause.

However, history teaches us that the world will never run out of threats to freedom. Hitler was defeated and we won the Cold War, but we must continue to contend with terrorists like Asama Bin Laden and tyrants like Milosovic and Hussein. Clearly, future American patriots may be called upon again to sacrifice for freedom.

As you reflect on our nation's past, remember that this great nation was not established by cowards. America has remained the land of the free through the noble selfless acts of our American patriots and those heroes who did not return. Today we honor you and today we remember. May your patriotism endure, may God continue to bless you, and may God bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN GOLD STAR PARENTS ANNUITY ACT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The American Gold Star Parents Annuity Act of 2001, H.R. 1917.

This legislation would create a new annuity of \$125 per month for all current and future Gold Star Parents. Gold Star Parents are those individuals who have lost a child, who was an active duty member of the Armed Forces, and subjected to either enemy fire in a recognized conflict or to an act of terrorism.

The annuity is for each set of parents, to be divided equally if they are no longer married. Should one parent be deceased, the surviving parent would receive the full amount of the annuity. This annuity will be tax free.

The annuity is contingent upon the parents being awarded a Gold Star, the eligibility of which is determined by the Secretary of Defense.

Most of the recipients will be members of The American Gold Star Mothers, an organization that had its beginnings in World War I. During that conflict, a blue star was used to represent a person serving in the United

States' Armed Forces. As American casualties mounted in 1917, silver stars were used to represent those who had been wounded, and gold stars were used for those who had died in the service of their nation.

On June 4, 1928, a group of twenty-five mothers residing in Washington DC, met to plan the founding of a national organization, which was officially incorporated on January 5, 1929.

Gold Star membership was initially open to all mothers who had lost a son or daughter in World War I, but subsequently was opened to all those who had lost a child in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf conflict.

These additions have paralleled congressional modifications to the U.S. Code to permit the Secretary of Defense to award Gold Star pins to the parents of deceased veterans of those conflicts as well as those who lost children in terrorist attacks on U.S. Armed Forces.

Since its founding, The American Gold Star Mothers has played a vital role in the healing process for those who had lost a child. By bringing together those who share a common tragedy, this organization has helped its members realize that they are not alone in their grief.

Furthermore, The Gold Star Mothers also performed the important service of assisting veterans of the last century's military conflicts and their descendants with the presentation of claims before the Veterans' Administration. They also perform thousands of hours of volunteer service in our VA hospitals, offering assistance and comfort to hospitalized veterans and their families.

Mr. Speaker, our country has always sought to look after the surviving spouse and children of a service-member who has been killed in action. Often overlooked however, are the parents of the deceased service-member. This is unfortunate since the parents are usually those who have had the greatest role in shaping that person's life, and will have had the greatest impact on his or her life. Yet, beyond heartfelt condolences, the parents receive very little from the Government that their child chose to patriotically serve as a member of the Armed Forces.

While we all recognize that the Government has some obligation to the widowed spouse and the killed soldier's children, very few have argued on the behalf of the parents who lose their children to war. Only those parents who relied on their child as a primary means of support currently receive any benefit when their child is killed in the line of duty.

This legislation seeks to change that reality. It offers a small annuity to any parent, mother or father, regardless of need, as a sign of appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice made by their child in the defense of freedom and liberty.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to support this overdue measure, H.R. 1917.

H.R. 1917

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gold Star Parents Annuity Act".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL PENSION FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter: