

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JOHN G. TAYLOR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John G. Taylor for being selected as the Person of the Year 2000 for his accomplishments in the area of religious journalism. The Muslim Public Affairs Council-Fresno presented the award to Taylor on Saturday, April 28, 2001 at their annual awards dinner.

John G. Taylor is a first-generation American. He was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1950. He worked as a reporter for a weekly newspaper and as a correspondent for the New York Times while he earned a degree in journalism at New York University. After college, he worked as a desk editor at newspapers in Hartford and New London, Connecticut. John always made time to do freelance writing on the side.

In 1981, John and his family relocated to Fresno, where he found a job with the Fresno Bee. In 1989, John landed a job as a religious reporter. He covered various historic religious events, including Pope John Paul II's World Youth Day gathering in Denver and the "Stand in the Gap" million-man Christian march in Washington, D.C. He eagerly pursued stories about people and matters of faith for the Fresno Bee until January of 2001. After his tenure at the Bee, John accepted a position as a senior communications specialist/senior writer with Community Medical Centers.

John and his wife Judy have six children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize John G. Taylor for his Person of the Year Award presented by the Muslim Public Affairs Council-Fresno. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing John G. Taylor many more years of continued success.

SIXTH DISTRICT COACH ACHIEVES
A NATIONAL HONOR

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the Sixth District of North Carolina is proud to congratulate John Ralls, who has been named as the runner-up for the National High School Coach of the Year Award. Ralls, coach of the Ledford High School girls' basketball team, received this honor from the Women's Basketball Coaches Association on April 7th. In addition to this achievement, Ralls earlier was named the Southeast Region Coach of the Year and the North Carolina Coach of the Year.

Mixed in with the good news of these accomplishments was a painful back injury that required surgery. "I was kind of out of it,"

Ralls told the Greensboro News and Record, "so I didn't pick up on it (the award) for about a week." Ralls's first back surgery was in 1992, his first year of coaching. The more recent surgery was much more serious, however, and Ralls was concerned that he might be unable to attend the ceremony on April 7th. Fortunately, Ralls was well enough to participate as well as perform as the assistant coach for the All-American girls' game in Phoenix, Arizona, where he picked up his award.

Ralls came to be nominated for this national award by one of his opponents. His Ledford team scrimmaged Apex High School, and it was the Apex coach, Scott Campbell, who nominated Ralls for the honor that he received.

During his 15 years as coach Ralls has greatly impacted the basketball program, but more importantly, many young lives. In the last seven seasons, the Ledford Varsity girls' basketball team has won three state championships, as well as appearing in the state finals four times.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Ledford coach John Ralls for his many accomplishments both on and off the basketball court.

INTRODUCTION OF INTERNET EQUITY AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2001

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Internet Equity and Education Act of 2001.

The Web-Based Education Commission, on which I served as Vice Chairman, set out to discover how the Internet was being used to enhance learning opportunities for all learners regardless of age. We heard testimony from many experts and witnessed many demonstrations of how successfully to use technology in education. Last fall, the Web-Based Education Commission issued its report, "The Power of the Internet for Learning."

Throughout the report, the Commission makes several recommendations for improving and expanding the use of the Internet so that all learners may have greater access to educational opportunities. One specific recommendation made by the Commission was to "[r]evise outdated regulations that impede innovation and replace them with approaches that embrace anytime, anywhere, any pace learning." The bill I am introducing today addresses this recommendation as it applies to postsecondary education.

The Commission identified specific areas that should be addressed immediately if we truly are to embrace anytime, anywhere and any pace learning. The bill I am introducing today provides a limited expansion of internet-based educational opportunities for students.

By the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act we will know if our efforts at expansion were successful and if greater expansions are warranted.

The first provision addressed in this legislation deals with on-line education programs. As a result of past concerns regarding correspondence education, the Higher Education Act limits the number of courses an institution may offer and the number of students an institution may enroll in such courses and remain eligible to participate in the title IV student aid programs. In addition, the Higher Education Act limits the amount of aid a student enrolled in distance education courses delivered via telecommunications may receive if the institution offers half or more of its courses by correspondence or telecommunications. These provisions hinder innovation and do nothing to promote the concept of anytime, anywhere, any pace learning. However, with modest changes to the law, we can lift these rules and allow greater innovation and flexibility that will undoubtedly expand educational opportunities for all learners, without increasing risks to program integrity. Under the bill I am introducing, postsecondary institutions that are already participating in the federal student loan programs with student loan default rates under 10 percent over the three most recent years would face no limit to the number of

The second provision addressed in this legislation is the repeal of a regulation known as the 12-hour rule with respect to non-standard term programs. This rule governs the amount of "seat-time" students must spend in class per week, and hinders innovation and flexibility in the offering of academic programs as a result of the enormous and expensive administrative burdens it imposes on colleges and universities. In the case of one university offering a nontraditional, non-standard term program, this rule translates into 370,000 reports each year that must be prepared, approved by faculty and stored in a way that they are available for inspection. These reports fill 20 four-drawer file cabinets every year. Who is going to review and read these mind-numbing reports? My guess is that no one is going to actually review or read these mind-numbing reports? My guess is that no one is going to actually review or read these reports, but the government continues to require that the reports be written and retained. Under these circumstances, why would any college try to offer innovative and flexible academic programs specifically designed to expand educational opportunities? This regulation clearly fits the Commission's call for revising outdated regulations that impede innovation. It need to be repealed. The bill I am introducing today repeals this outdated regulation and simply treats non-standard term programs the same as standard term programs with respect to the definition of a week of instruction.

The final provision addressed by the legislation would clarify the incentive compensation

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

requirements currently found in the law. This provision would return to postsecondary institutions the ability to reward employees appropriately for their job performance, as long as they are not directly recruiting students.

This legislation provides much needed changes to the Higher Education Act that will allow all learners to take the fullest advantage of what the newest technologies can provide for their education. I thank the Chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. McKEON, and Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee, Ms. MINK, for their help in crafting this legislation, and I urge the support of all the members of this body.

MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices that our veterans have made to keep us free.

This Freedom does not come without a price. It has been earned through the blood sweat, toil and tears of our military servicemen throughout history. Many of these men and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice on battlefields around the globe.

Now we must fulfill our promises to them. We must fulfill a promise of honor, respect and dignity today as we observe the sacrifices to services members.

I urge every American to pause and recognize that all of our liberties have been earned by thanking a veteran for their sacrifice.

Countless soldiers have died for our peace and stability. They knew the threat to their lives when they answered the call to stand up and fight for liberty.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to this dedicated group of heroic Americans. Let's honor them by giving them our thanks and praise this weekend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, my "yea" vote (Rollcall No. 144) on May 23, 2001 was recorded in error. I intended to vote "no" and would like the RECORD to reflect my position on the Motion to Recommit.

TAX RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep and alarming concerns about the pending Tax Reconciliation Conference Report.

While the Senate, that now distinguished body across the divide, has managed to scale

back the size of the tax cut, Mr. Speaker it is still too large. We cannot afford this tax cut!! If we are to meet our obligations to the nation's youth, elderly and impoverished, we must act responsibly.

However you slice it, Mr. Speaker, this is tax cut for the rich. This is a bank account builder for those in our country who least need the boost.

We are basing this tax cut on projected revenues which, even by the most liberal of estimates, may not materialize.

Mr. Speaker, the most irresponsible part of this tax cut is that it relies on, and threatens the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds. It is an irresponsible tax cut because it totally ignores hundreds of billions of dollars in interests costs. It seeks to line the pockets of the rich while fleecing the poor on energy, education and housing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to expose this tax cut for what it really is, an irresponsible, poorly calculated and skewed to the wealthy budget buster.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. HARMON

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the departure of James A. Harmon as Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States and thank him for a job well-done.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Chairman Harmon on a number of Ex-Im Bank issues during my time as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. I know firsthand what a strong advocate he has been for the agency and its important mission of supporting U.S. jobs through exports. From making Ex-Im Bank financing available in new foreign markets, to making the Bank more customer friendly, Chairman Harmon has done much to make Ex-Im Bank a more effective tool to support U.S. exports and U.S. jobs.

Chairman Harmon brought to Ex-Im Bank nearly 40 years of private sector experience in investment banking. This gave him an acute appreciation of global capital markets and the challenges U.S. exporters face in obtaining financing to transact business in emerging market economies. He put this experience to work at Ex-Im Bank, developing innovative financing structures, implementing marketing programs to better reach out to small businesses and other exporters that cannot access private sources of financing, and streamlining transaction processing.

At the same time, Chairman Harmon has been a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. He has managed the Bank's portfolio and resources in a responsible manner, including through some difficult times in the global economy. When the Asian economies went into a tailspin early in Chairman Harmon's tenure, Ex-Im Bank was put to the test. He ably steered the Bank through this crisis, keeping losses on its Asian portfolio to a minimum by restructuring problem credits and aggressively pursuing claim recoveries. The Bank was also able to play a constructive role during this crisis by extending new financing to creditworthy

Asian businesses that helped restart stalled U.S. export trade with the region. Ex-Im Bank emerged from the crisis having stood by U.S. exporters and prudently managed its assets.

As Ex-Im Bank moves into the 21st Century, it faces new challenges from both competitor export credit agencies and from new emerging markets. Chairman Harmon has put the Bank on firm footing to face these challenges and continue its important mission.

Once again, I'd like to thank Chairman Harmon for his four years of service to Ex-Im Bank and wish him well in his future pursuits.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION FOR BAH REDUCTION LEGISLATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation aimed at improving the quality of life for our military personnel.

Last Year, Congress began funding an important Department of Defense initiative to reduce the out-of-pocket housing costs for service members residing in off-base housing. That program envisioned decreasing the out-of-pocket costs from almost 18.9 percent of housing costs incurred by our servicemen and women in 2000 down to zero in 2005. The average E-6 will receive about \$175 more a month in BAH by 2005, while the average E-4 will receive about \$111 more, allowing them to seek better housing options.

This is a great initiative that will have real benefits for almost 750,000 military personnel. However, I believe that we can and should do more.

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations Randall Yim recently testified before the House Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee that up to 60 percent of all DoD housing is substandard. Two-thirds of this inventory is over 30 years old and requires a substantial annual investment to meet the maintenance requirements. In the barracks, over 50 percent of the inventory is over 30 years old. While we are taking many steps to eliminate this substandard housing through increased funding and several privatization initiatives, it will still be 2010 before most services have eliminated their poor quality housing—2014 for at least one service.

Our men and women in uniform risk their lives to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today. We owe it to those servicemen and women, and their families, to do everything we can to improve their living conditions.

It is for that reason, that I am introducing this legislation today. The legislation is very simple. Rather than waiting five years to buy down the out-of-pocket housing costs of our military personnel, this legislation would reduce out-of-pocket costs to 7.5 percent by the end of 2002, and zero by the end of 2003. By more rapidly reducing the costs associated with living off-base, more of our military personnel will be able to move into quality housing for them and their families.

I urge my colleague to join me in supporting this important legislation to improve the standard of living for those bravely serving in our Armed Forces.