

Look now, this will be a kind of a rough fight.

Who knows, I may come to your house to-night.

Though I wasn't friendly to you before, I wonder, God, if you'd wait at the door? Look, I'm crying, Oh, me shedding tears; I wish I had known you these many years.

Well, I have to go now, God, so good-bye. Strange, since I met you, I'm not afraid to die.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this poem inspires my distinguished colleagues as it has inspired me. The Greatest Generation has given so much to younger generations that I am happy to give something back by submitting this poem to the House of Representatives. I would ask my colleagues to join me in honoring World War II veterans with a moment of silence.

PERMANENT DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2143, the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act and I urge my colleagues to lend this measure their support.

This measure would repeal the sunset provision pertaining to the death tax that was included in the comprehensive tax relief legislation passed by Congress in the spring of 2001.

Without passage of today's bill, the death tax provisions, which are gradually phased out over the next 8 years, will revert to 2001 levels in 2011.

The estate tax is an outmoded policy that has long outlived its usefulness. Alternatively known as the death tax, this tax was instituted in 1916 to prevent too much wealth from congregating with the wealthy capitalist families in early 20th century America. The law failed in its original purpose, as the truly wealthy are always able to shelter their income with the help of tax attorneys that the middle-class cannot afford.

Instead, as incomes have risen in the past 30 years, the death tax, like so much of the Tax Code, has begun to impact the middle class, especially those with cash poor estates, like small businesses or family farms.

The Congress addressed this problem last year, by providing for a 10-year phase-out of the death tax. However, this structure makes advanced estate planning difficult, especially for those planning for after 2011.

Given this, it makes sense to simply repeal the sunset provisions affecting the death tax after 2010. This measure accomplishes this goal, and I urge my colleagues to join in support.

A STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ALEX STEINER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, Alex Steiner, Holocaust survivor and longtime resident of Highland Park, New Jersey, died May 23, 2002 in Oregon. Alex ("Sanyi," to his intimates) was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1920. He was a young man when World War Two came to his native land. Like many able-bodied Jewish male citizens, he was confined to a Hungarian labor camp for most of the War. After the War, Alex, his mother and older sister (their father, an older brother and many other extended family members did not survive), were displaced persons in Germany. They immigrated to the United States in 1949 to New Brunswick, New Jersey, where Alex's uncle sponsor and his family lived.

Alex embraced American patriotism and bought into the American dream. He was hardworking and ambitious for himself and for his family. Among his occupations he owned a shoe store in New Brunswick and sold commercial real estate. He and his wife Julie ("Joli"), a concentration camp survivor, extended themselves to provide a comfortable home in a good neighborhood for the family. Alex was always openly grateful to the United States for providing him a chance for the good life. He often insisted that few understood how unparalleled in goodness and opportunity our country is.

After his retirement and his wife's death, Alex moved with his son to Portland where his lawyer daughter and her family lived. He was a loving, attentive grandparent to his two grandsons and an active optimistic person to the moment of his final illness.

Alex Steiner was a lively, fun-loving, voluble, energetic social man. He was a talented musician who played several instruments and could readily pick up any piece of music. In Germany he led an orchestra that performed for American service personnel. When he came to America, he brought as an appreciative present for his young American cousin a full-sized accordion.

He was a loving relative, whose closeness to his uncle and others was especially touching. Survived by his son, daughter and two grandsons, he will be missed as a bright spot in life by those who knew him well.

TRIBUTE TO CLINTON, MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the city of Clinton, Missouri, for being recognized as the first recipient of the "Random Acts of Service" award sponsored by Hilton Hotels Corporation. In response to a national re-commitment to the service of our neighborhoods and our nation, Hilton Hotels launched a nationwide community effort aimed at committing one million random acts of service in 2002.

The community of Clinton, Missouri, in conjunction with the program "Random Acts of Service" will be involved in many volunteer efforts during the months of May and June. Volunteers from Hilton Hotels and citizens of Clinton, Missouri, will be restoring the Historic Missouri Artesian Park in Clinton, among other projects.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the city of Clinton for helping to make their community and our great country a better place to live. I know that Members of the House will join me in wishing them all the best in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO HENNINGER HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Henninger High School Boys Basketball Team for winning the Class A State Championship. The win was a great testament to the hard work and dedication of this team and its staff.

The Black Knights of Henninger made history when they won the Class A championship title by defeating McQuaid Jesuit High School of Rochester, 71 to 56. They were the first team in their section to bring home a Class A championship. On top of this great victory the Black Knights had a close to perfect season winning 25 of their 27 games played.

Henninger player Chris Turner was deserving of special recognition by breaking the Class A single-game record, scoring 38 points to aid in the teams victory. He and fellow teammate Jerice Crouch were also players on the New York All-State Team and helped to carry the Black Knights to their victory.

I would also like to give a special recognition to Joe Mazella for his dedicated service as Head Coach to the Black Knights. He is going to be stepping down from his position at the end of this season. Mazella finished his career with an impressive record of 245 wins and 78 losses. Under his direction, the team won nine Onondaga League championships and five sectional crowns. Personally he has won the All-Central New York coach of the year twice, once in 1995 and then again in 2002.

On behalf of the people of the 25th district of New York, it is my honor to congratulate the Henninger High School Basketball Team and its coaching staff on their Class A Championship. With these remarks I would like to recognize the following players and staff: Chris Turner, Chase Frazer, Jerice Crouch, Quincy Fulmer, Markese Brown, Jason Nelson, Justin Wright, Terrance Evans, Roger Robinson, Erris Robinson, Dan Rogers, Lawrence Graser, Lenell Graham, Sedric Hawkins, and Head Coach: Joe Mazella.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, on June 11, 2002 I was unavoidably detained and was not

present for three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes Nos. 220, 221, and 222.

**A RESOLUTION PRESENTING A
MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO THE
LIFE AND LEGACY OF GER-
TRUDE SCHWAB**

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, Gertrude Schwab was born in Wilmington, California on November 6, in the year 1926, to Henry and Anna Viereck; she was the fourth of nine children; and

Whereas, Gertrude Schwab received her early education at Avalon Elementary and Phineas Banning High School in her hometown of Wilmington, California; and

Whereas, Gertrude Schwab married Bill Schwab on March 28, in the year 1945, and from this union were born three sons: Michael, Frank, and David, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and

Whereas, Gertrude Schwab raised her three sons, taking a strong participatory role in their upbringing through PTA, Cub Scouts and numerous other family oriented activities; and

Whereas, Gertrude Schwab attended Harbor College in Wilmington, earning her License of Vocational Nursing graduating on the Dean's list in 1973 enabling her to do the work she loved, caring for those in need at Kaiser Hospital in Harbor City and Harbor General Hospital; and

Whereas, Gertrude Schwab dedicated her life to community activism as a volunteer involved in political and social issues and activities essential to the advancement of the community of Wilmington; and

Whereas, Gertrude Schwab was appointed by the Mayor of Los Angeles in 1993 to a seat on the Harbor Commission, where she served with dignity and thoughtfulness for the citizens of Wilmington, who are most affected by Port issues; and

Whereas, Gertrude Schwab, through her advocacy, made Wilmington a better place to live, touching the lives of countless people, including myself.

Now therefore, be it resolved that Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD proudly recognizes this woman of dedication, courage, persistence and wisdom and her distinguished service to her community.

**MYCHAL JUDGE POLICE AND FIRE
CHAPLAINS PUBLIC SAFETY OF-
FICERS' BENEFIT ACT OF 2002**

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation.

Our nation's police and fire chaplains serve their communities each day, often putting their own lives in danger.

Tragically, on September 11, 2001, some public safety officers lost their lives responding to the terrorist attack in New York City.

One brave man, Father Mychal Judge, died as he was helping victims escape from the chaos. Unfortunately, his family and the families of nine other public safety officers are not eligible for federal death benefits.

This legislation would change that policy. While no amount of money will ever replace what these families have lost, we owe it to them to do whatever we can to ease any financial hardship.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to recognize the bravery of all public safety officers.

**IN HONOR OF RESCUE HOOK &
LADDER CO. NO. 1**

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the officers and members of Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 of Roslyn. This year, Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 will celebrate its 150th anniversary, making it one of the oldest fire companies in the State of New York.

Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, since the introduction of its Charter by the Assembly of the State of New York in 1866, has shown heroic dedication to the Roslyn community. It is this untiring commitment at the moment of utmost danger that has forever unified Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 with the families it so ably protects.

Moreover, the officers and members of Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 are proud of their legacy and achievement within the Roslyn community. They are committed to maintaining their reputation for only the highest standards long into the future.

To the officers and members of Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 and to the memory of all the fallen firefighters, who sacrificed their lives to preserve our freedom during the terrorist attacks of September 11, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this historic anniversary.

**PARTICIPATING IN BLUE STAR
SERVICE PROGRAM**

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the U.S. Armed Forces and the recognition of their services by emphasizing the importance of an American tradition, known as the Blue Star Banner Program. I would also like to take a moment to praise the American Legion for their tireless role in promoting traditions such as this and their endless support of veterans throughout the years.

The service banner has had a long history in the United States dating back to World War I. These banners were displayed in communities across the nation in homes, businesses, churches and schools as an indication that a member of a family or organization was serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The blue stars of these banners were replaced with gold

stars as service-members were killed or died as a result of war-time injuries.

These banners saw their popularity peak during World War I and World War II, but have also been seen during the Korean War, Beirut, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Bosnia and Saudi Arabia conflicts.

It is time again, to show our support for the U.S. Armed Forces. America has found herself at a time of war due to the events of 9/11. As a result, our nation has been called once again to defend and uphold the moral obligations of freedom and democracy. The need for patriotism, a shared national unity and purpose directed at our common enemy, has never been clearer.

I have been given the opportunity to honor several constituents who are serving in the Armed Forces. These men are Jason Tinelle, who currently serves in Bosnia as an infantry Platoon Sergeant, and TM1 Richard Messick, who currently serves aboard the USS *Hartford*. On behalf of the American Legion and a grateful nation, I presented the Blue Star Banner to their families and children as a symbol of their loved ones' endless dedication and sacrifice for patriotism and freedom.

I strongly encourage all Members of Congress to honor their constituents by participating in the Blue Star Service Banner Program. Contact your local American Legion Office and encourage your media to promote this program and let the public know that this program is still strong.

Let's do everything we can to stand behind the men and women who are fighting for America.

**LEGISLATION RESTORING FIRST
AMENDMENT PROTECTIONS OF
RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS
SPEECH**

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation restoring First amendment protections of religion and religious speech. For fifty years, the personal religious freedom of this nation's citizens has been infringed upon by courts that misread and distort the First amendment. The framers of the Constitution never in their worst nightmares imagined that the words, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech . . ." would be used to ban children from praying in school, prohibit courthouses from displaying the Ten Commandments, or prevent citizens from praying before football games. The original meaning of the First amendment was clear on these two points: The federal government cannot enact laws establishing one religious denomination over another, and the federal government cannot forbid mention of religion, including the Ten Commandments and references to God.

In case after case, the Supreme Court has used the infamous "Separation of Church and State" metaphor to uphold court decisions that allow the federal government to intrude upon and deprive citizens of their religious liberty. This "separation" doctrine is based upon a