

When Fred retired as Director in 1996, he left a dynamic organization providing Senior Centers, Head Start, family planning, nutrition and day care services, and housing, energy crisis and rural transportation assistance to more than 30,000 people in thirteen Central Texas counties.

In his 1964 State of the Union speech, President Johnson described Americans living "on the outskirts of hope," and he declared an unconditional War on Poverty. "It will not be a short or easy struggle, no single weapon or strategy will suffice, but we shall not rest until the war is won."

Fred Wittenburg heard President Johnson's words, took them to heart, and made that war on poverty his life's work.

An old saying tells us, "When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree." Through his long and distinguished career of service to others, Fred Wittenburg planted thousands and thousands of trees. And, the people of the Central Texas Hill Country will enjoy the fruit of those trees and think of him for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 8, H. Res. 342, on ordering the previous question. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 9, S. 1888, to correct a Technical Error in the Codification of Title 36 of the United States Code. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 10, H. Con. Res. 312, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the scheduled Tax Relief Provided by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 passed by a Bipartisan Majority in Congress should not be suspended or repealed. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 11, H. J. Res. 82, Recognizing the 91st birthday of Ronald Reagan. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

FEBRUARY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named the Rockville Centre Union Free School District as School District of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for February 2002. The schools in the district are Francis F. Wilson, Jennie E. Hewitt, Floyd B. Watson, Riverside and William S. Covert Elementary Schools, and South Side Middle and High Schools.

I decided to honor the entire Rockville Centre school district for their commitment to helping the victims and their families of the Sep-

tember 11 tragedy. I commend their determination to make the world a better place.

Dr. William Johnson is the Superintendent of Schools in the Rockville Centre School District. Primarily serving the residents of Rockville Centre, the school district also includes portions of the neighboring South Hempstead communities. The administrators of the schools are: Joan F. Waldman, Principal, Floyd B. Watson Elementary School; Darren Raymar, Principal, William S. Covert Elementary School; Carol Burris, Principal, South Side High School; Thomas Ricupero, Principal, South Side Middle School; Joanne Spencer, Principal, Jennie E. Hewitt Elementary School; Patricia Bock, Principal, Riverside Elementary School; and Ann Peluso, Principal, Francis F. Wilson Elementary School.

All five of the elementary schools contributed to the various relief funds through a wide-range of events such as fundraisers, exhibits and collections. Students at Hewitt and Waston Elementary Schools responded immediately to President Bush's request for one dollar from every child to be sent to starving children in Afghanistan. Covert Elementary School will donate half of the proceeds from its annual Variety Show to their local World Trade Center fund. Wilson Elementary School ran a coin campaign and donated the proceeds, totaling over two thousand dollars to the American Red Cross.

Furthermore, the Rockville Centre school district has excelled on the academic front. Several schools in the district have recently received individual awards for outstanding educational standards.

Riverside Elementary School recently became the recipient of the Pathfinder Award, a prestigious distinction given by the Business Council of New York State for most improvement on state-wide English and Math exams. Two students from South Side High School are semifinalists in the nationwide Intel Science Talent Search, where the winners receive college scholarships. In 1998, South Side High School was named Blue Ribbon School.

The unity and generosity of these children and their families is amazing. I am very proud of all of these schools and their benevolent efforts. Congratulations on this honor, and keep up the good work.

TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY HOLGUIN COLUNGA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a woman who was very special to me, to my aide, Ruby Ramirez, and to the entire Colton community. I rise to pay tribute to the life of Rosemary Holguin Colunga, beloved community activist, volunteer and leader.

Rosemary was active in every kind of community organization from her high school days until her death. Rosemary was a woman who dedicated her life to the people of her community. She had visions of opening doors for those less fortunate making sure that everyone had a chance in life.

Rosemary, herself, was no stranger to hardship. She was born on September 6, 1937 in

San Bernardino, California, the second child of Jose Ramon and Catherine Holguin Colunga. Shortly afterwards, her parents moved to the City of Colton to raise their children, and Rosemary would remain a member of the Colton community for the rest of her life. She attended Garfield/Woodrow Wilson School continuing her education at Colton High School, but she had to drop out of school due to an illness. Never one to be defeated by life, Rosemary regained her health and earned her high school diploma from San Bernardino Valley College going on to earn an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and completing a general secretarial course at Skadron Business College.

While Rosemary's education prepared her for a career in business, her heart belonged to service. In 1968 she began working for the anti-poverty programs for the San Bernardino County, and later coordinated community services for the City of Bloomington. Rosemary was pivotal in bringing Loma Linda University's low-income neighborhood to open a clinic for area residents.

After working for the City of Bloomington for nine years, Rosemary moved to her own neighborhood of South Colton to become the Facility Coordinator for the City of Colton at the Luque Multi-Service Center at Veterans Memorial Park. The Luque Center was located in a low-income area, but this did not stop Rosemary from bringing every available program to the center that was offered uptown. If any of the programs were unavailable at her center, then she would just take the people uptown where they could enjoy the services in her typical "can-do" spirit.

Her community involvement did not stop with her career. Service was a way of life for Rosemary. Rosemary became the president of Woodrow Wilson's PTA when no one else wanted to take on the responsibility even though she had no children of her own. Rosemary was determined not to let the students go without community leadership. She was also the first, and only, female president of Los Padrinos, a community organization. Rosemary was also active in her local Catholic Church, San Salvador where she served as a lecturer, Eucharistic minister and sang in the choir. Her fellow parishioners remember that her beautiful voice that brought tears to their eyes, because she was singing "from her heart."

Rosemary was particularly devoted to the very young and the very old of her community. She organized outings for the senior citizens of South Colton such as sight seeing, shopping and gambling. She truly loved spending time with the seniors referring to them as "my Viejitos." The youth of her community were always seeking Rosemary's advice and she spent endless hours counseling, scolding and working with them at the centers. Many members of the Colton community count Rosemary as one of their mentors.

Rosemary's service to her community did not go unnoticed during her lifetime. She received accolades and awards from countless organizations, the late Congressman George Brown, Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamonte, State Senator Nell Soto, the City of Colton, and the Colton Joint Unified School District. Rosemary was nominated by Assemblyman John Longville and received the "Woman of the Year 2000" award, which she always considered her greatest accomplishment.

Rosemary passed away on February 2, 2002 surrounded by her loving family. She was preceded in death by her brother Ramon Holguin Colunga, and is survived by brother William Holguin Colunga, and sisters Elvira Colunga Hernandez, and Olivia Colunga Gonzalez. She also leaves behind nine nieces and nephews, as well as seventeen great-nieces and nephews. Her family, innumerable friends and the entire community will miss her greatly.

And so Mr. Speaker, I submit this loving memorial to be included in the archives of the history of this great nation. For women like Rosemary Holguin Colunga are what make this nation great. Women like Rosemary leave a legacy of lives filled with dedication to the people of their community. She is the fabric from which our nation was created.

BIOENERGY INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY (BIO) ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, recently, I hosted two value-added agriculture round-table discussions in South Dakota to hear about the progress and concerns that farmers are having with value-added agriculture. A program that was brought to my attention that has been very helpful to ethanol and biodiesel plants is the Bioenergy Program. In South Dakota, the Bioenergy Program is currently used by Dakota Ethanol of Wentworth, Heartland Grain Fuels of Aberdeen, Broin Enterprises of Scotland and JPJ Enterprises of Humboldt.

The program is important because it stimulates industrial consumption of agricultural commodities by promoting their use in bioenergy production. Bioenergy producers that increase their consumption of eligible commodities receive payments to offset part of the cost of buying the additional commodities. According to USDA, the Bioenergy Program for FY 2001 resulted in a production increase of 141.3 million gallons of ethanol and 6.4 million gallons of biodiesel.

Today I have introduced the Bioenergy Investment and Opportunity (BIO) Act. The bill would authorize and expand the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Bioenergy Program through FY 2011.

By authorizing the Bioenergy Program we will promote value-added agriculture and increase production of bioenergy, such as ethanol and biodiesel, expanding industrial consumption of agricultural commodities. The program was initiated by an Executive Order of President Clinton and has been continued by President Bush, but it expires at the end of FY 2002.

Under the current program, USDA makes up to \$150 million in payments annually. The BIO Act expands the payments to \$200 million annually. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes cash payments to bioenergy producers by compensating them for a portion of their increased commodity purchases made to expand existing production of bioenergy and to encourage the construction of new production capacity.

Mr. Speaker, increased bioenergy production helps strengthen the income of soybean, corn, and other producers and lessens U.S.

dependence on traditional energy sources. As I introduce the BIO Act today, I ask for the support of the other Members of this House and the Administration in continuing and expanding this important program.

PRESIDENT BUSH INSISTS ON MORE TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY EVEN AS ECONOMISTS SHOW THAT THE RICH ARE GETTING RICHER AND PAYING LESS IN TAXES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would encourage Members of the House and all Americans to pay attention to two very disturbing stories this week that illustrate the tremendous burdens on working families that this Congress continues to fail to address.

Yesterday, the House voted a symbolic and politically motivated resolution upholding the grossly unfair and deficit-producing tax windfall for wealthy Americans that President Bush pushed through Congress last year. Over the course of that year, the economy has faltered, millions have lost their jobs or significant parts of their income, and we have rearranged our spending priorities because of the need to combat terrorism. Despite all of this, however, Washington still will not reconsider whether we should spend a trillion and a half dollars in tax cuts mainly aimed at the wealthiest Americans.

That Bush tax law has exacerbated the growing inequality of incomes in America that has become an emblem of the Enron decade of the '90s. According to economist Edward N. Wolff of New York University, wealth in America is more highly concentrated today than at any time since 1929.

While the number of Americans earning over a million dollars more than doubled in the last half of the '90s, the percentage of their income that the wealthiest paid in federal income taxes actually fell by 11 percent, thanks to tax changes.

Meanwhile, those who earned less paid more in taxes, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

And now President Bush wants even more permanent tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

Yet, while this House has time for legislation to expand tax cuts for the wealthiest, it has failed to pass legislation to benefit the millions of workers who have lost their jobs and exhausted their unemployment benefits. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities has just released a report showing that two million working men and women will lose their unemployment benefits in the first half of this year alone, adding to hundreds of thousands who lost unemployment insurance benefits last year and tens of thousands more who were denied any benefits. As a result, the number of exhautees who have been denied any additional weeks of benefits in the first quarter of this year is higher than in any other first quarter since the early 1970s. That is a crisis that the federal government can and should respond to but has as of now failed to do so.

Mr. Speaker, these are very, very disturbing trends: more wealth for the wealthiest, and more tax cuts for wealthiest; growing income disparity and higher taxes for the middle class working family; no extended benefits for the unemployed and no coverage for millions of workers who paid into unemployment insurance but got no benefits when they lost their jobs.

The federal government spend tens of millions of dollars trying to instruct people overseas how to build democracy in their countries, and one of the basic lessons we teach them is that you cannot build political democracy without economic justice. Frankly, the policies of this Congress are so inconsistent with any concept of economic justice that we should be concerned about the effect on our own democracy.

Attached is an article from today's New York Times.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 7, 2002]

MORE GET RICH AND PAY LESS IN TAXES

(By David Cay Johnston)

The number of Americans with million-dollar incomes more doubled from 1995 through 1999, as their salaries and their profits from stocks soared, government figures to be published today show. The percentage of their income that went to federal income taxes, however, fell by 11 percent. The incomes of Americans who made less grew as well, though by far less, and the share of their income that went to taxes rose slightly, according to Internal Revenue Service income tax data for the five years through 1999, the latest year available. The wealthiest Americans paid a smaller share of their income in taxes because in 1997 Congress reduced taxes on capital gains, which account for a significant share of their income.

Congress also cut taxes for the middle class, but only one in five taxpayers qualified for those cuts, which involved new tax credits for children and education expenses. So, as a group, the portion of their income going to taxes rose. For those with million-dollar incomes, the share of their income that went to taxes fell to 27.9 percent in 1999, from 31.4 percent in 1995. For those Americans who did not make a million dollars, the portion of their income going to taxes edged up in those years, to 12.8 percent from 12.5 percent. About 205,000 taxpayers made \$1 million or more in 1999, up from less than 87,000 in 1995. The average income of those who made \$1 million or more rose by \$568,000 to \$3.2 million.

Critics of the latest Bush administration economic stimulus and tax cut plan, announced this week, regarded the latest figures as evidence that the wealthy have received too many breaks.

"Congress cut taxes on rich people in 1997," Robert McIntyre, director of Citizens for Tax Justice, a nonprofit Washington organization with labor union backing, said. "The rate that they pay fell by quite a bit, while they didn't do much for everyone else and their taxes went up a little. The law did what Congress intended. Their intent was to make sure the wealthier people paid less in taxes and they weren't worried about the rest of the people."

President Bush, who won a major tax cut from Congress last year, and his supporters argue that permanent cuts in tax rates encourage investment, which results in more jobs and economic growth.

"We need to pass a bill that will help workers and help stimulate the economy," Mr. Bush told reporters on Tuesday.

The president's new tax cut plan appeared to die on Tuesday when Senator Tom