

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

Daschle, Democrat of South Dakota and the majority leader, moved to shelve it. Those making a million dollars or more, just one of every 625 taxpayers in 1999, more than doubled their slice of the nation's income to 11.2 percent that year, from 5.4 percent in 1995. These high-income taxpayers also captured a quarter of the nation's total personal income growth from 1995 through 1999. The incomes of taxpayers making less than \$1 million also rose, though not as sharply. The income of everyone making less than a million dollars averaged \$41,000 in 1999, up from \$33,500 in 1995, a 22 percent increase, the data, using adjusted gross incomes, showed. The tax return data show that the number of taxpayers reporting incomes of less than \$25,000 declined slightly, while those reporting incomes at higher levels increased.

The tax return data show that the number of taxpayers reporting incomes of less than \$25,000 declined slightly, while those reporting incomes at higher levels increased.

William Beech, an economist at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, which supports lower tax rates to foster economic growth, said that these figures may be misleading in several ways. The data fail to capture the growing number of the working poor, and their meager incomes, because many of them are immigrants who work off the books, he said.

"The reported income that the I.R.S. picks up from tax returns reflects people who are making their way up the economic ladder," Mr. Beech said. "If we had fully accurate reporting of income, we would see that within the poorest fifth, the median income would be falling because of the millions of people coming into the United States, who mostly earn low incomes."

He also noted that among those who file income tax returns, many of who appear poor may actually be retirees with substantial investments. But they need only modest incomes because their mortgages are paid off and their children are grown.

The stock market played a large role in creating more million-dollar annual incomes, the figures show. Capital gains over all more than tripled during the five years, with almost three quarters of the increase going to those with million-dollar incomes. The capital gains tax cut of 1997 appeared to favor the 400 richest taxpayers most of all. Harvesting 7 percent of all capital gains in 1998, these very rich Americans paid just 22 percent of their incomes in taxes that year, down from 30 percent in 1994. Although more than half of all families are investors in the stock market, largely through 401(k)'s and similar retirement plans, wealth in America is more highly concentrated today than at any time since 1929, said Professor Edward N. Wolff, a New York University economist.

TRIBUTE TO MS. MARY HAMILTON

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of Ms. Mary Hamilton of Glendale, California. Mary Hamilton served as President of the Board of Trustees of Glendale Community College and passed away late in the evening of February 4, 2002. Mary's life was distinguished by her tireless service to her community and my prayers are with her family this day as they mourn the loss of such a great woman.

Mary Hamilton was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, the granddaughter of the local con-

gressman. She moved to Glendale after World War II and attended local Glendale schools, graduating from Hoover High School. She earned a business degree from the University of Southern California.

Her professional life was marked by much distinction. She served as the controller of Artisan House, Inc., as a portfolio manager with Salomon Smith Barney, and in 1990 opened her own investment-counseling firm in Glendale, which today is part of Clifford Associates, the oldest investment firm in the United States.

But what I believe Mary Hamilton would be most proud of were her efforts on behalf of the community. Her community involvement was without rival. She was the past President and Founder of the YWCA of Glendale Housing Corporation, a non-profit organization, which owns and manages the YWCA's transitional housing project in Glendale for battered and homeless women and children. She served at one time as the President of the Verdugo Hills Business and Professional Women's Organization and as a board member with the Kiwanis Club of Glendale, the Verdugo Club, the Glendale Adventist Medical Center Foundation, and the Glendale Salvation Army.

In the past few years she has served on the Board of Directors of the Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center and the Women's Enterprise Development Corporation. She was honored as Woman of the Year by the Glendale Chamber of Commerce and served on the Alex Regional Theater board, which transformed the Alex Theatre from a closed movie theatre into a performing arts venue.

The community she served for so long will truly miss her. They will not only miss the endless efforts of Ms. Hamilton in making her community a better place to live but they will also miss the way in which she performed her service. She opened doors and opportunities to so many who would have otherwise gone without. She was a remarkable woman whose spirit of selfless giving carries on with the lives of the people she touched and the work that she did to make Glendale the outstanding community it is today.

I ask that all Members of Congress join me today in remembering the life of a woman whose generosity showed no limits and whose service affected the lives of many. She will be missed by her family and all of us.

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to recognize National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. I want to thank my colleague, MAXINE WATERS for organizing tonight's special orders.

Today, African American communities, including AIDS service organizations, city governments and people living with HIV/AIDS will acknowledge National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day through community events, vigils and by volunteering their services to organizations who provide HIV/AIDS services. These efforts will help raise awareness about the impact of HIV/AIDS in the African American community.

In my district, the Alameda County Health Department, partners in the Alameda County State of Emergency Task Force and the faith community will also hold day long community events to mark this occasion.

Three years ago the State of Emergency Task Force and the Alameda County Health Department helped to declare a Public Health Emergency on HIV/AIDS in the African American community. Since then, more resources have reached the community making a positive impact. In Alameda County, we are slowly seeing a decrease in new HIV infections. However, we must not slow our efforts to curb this deadly disease.

Since the first AIDS diagnosis over 20 years ago, AIDS has devastated America's Black community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that for the first time in 8 years, HIV/AIDS case rates are rising in the United States. The CDC estimates 900,000 people living in the U.S. with HIV/AIDS, with approximately 40,000 new infections every year. African-Americans lead the number of these new infection rates. Blacks represent 12% of the Nation's population yet, they account for 47% of new AIDS cases.

Since December 2000, over 130,000 AIDS cases were reported among women in the U.S. Almost 2/3 of all women with AIDS are African American. And, girls make up 58% of new AIDS cases among teens in the U.S. Blacks are ten times more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS than whites and ten times more likely to die from the disease. The CDC also estimates that 30% of young, gay, black men are infected with the AIDS virus.

Including the incidence of HIV/AIDS among African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and Native Americans, racial minorities now represent a majority of new AIDS cases and a majority of Americans living with AIDS. It is imperative that National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day serve as a platform to educate people about the impact of HIV/AIDS on African-Americans and draw attention to the need for increased resources for the fight against this devastating disease.

On World AIDS Day, President Bush promised to provide the necessary resources to combat the AIDS pandemic and ensure that people living with HIV and AIDS would receive effective care and treatment. It appears that the President only meant those words on World AIDS Day because these priority is not reflected in his budget. In fact domestic AIDS programs are flat funded despite the spike in new infection rates. We must remember that AIDS is also reaching far across our shores—in Africa, the motherland of many Black Americans, AIDS is decimating societies. HIV/AIDS is the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time!

So as we gather in the African-American community and in communities across the nation, together, we must work to increase the level of resource committed to fight this disease.

HONORING MR. WALTER J. RISCHMANN

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to pay tribute to a member of the