

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

"Greatest Generation" from the First District of Ohio, Mr. Walter J. Rischmann. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 28, 1920, Walter served in the U.S. Army during World War II in campaigns in France, Italy, and North Africa, where he took part in the American advance on a key German fortress on Hill 609. This significant battle was featured in the December 27, 1945 issue of Life magazine.

Soon after returning home from the war, Walter began working for a lithographing company from which he retired in January 1982. He has eight children, 19 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11 reminded us anew of how much our freedom and security depends on the heroic service and bravery of men like Walter Rischmann. On behalf of the Ohio community that Walter has devotedly served all his life, I'd like to extend my fondest regards and gratitude to this fine American.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUSAN
SMITH

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Susan Smith and thank her for her extraordinary contributions to her community and to her state. As a resident of Pueblo, Colorado, Sue has dedicated herself to helping her community by selflessly giving her time and energy to a number of philanthropic endeavors. The remarkable work she has done with the people in her community, both young and old alike, is surpassed only by the level of integrity and honesty with which she has conducted herself each and every day. It is her tremendous efforts that have led to her recognition as the recipient of the Colorado Women 2002 Power of One Award, and I would like to applaud her efforts and express my thanks for all she has done.

The amount of work that Sue has done in and for her community is truly remarkable. She has served as a board member of Start-Up Education, a youth entrepreneurship program, since it relocated from Atlanta to Pueblo. She was instrumental in the start-up phase, coordinating the donation of desks, workstations, chairs and computers, as well as identifying a facility to house the program. Sue was also responsible for writing several successful grants to fund the program. She often takes time to visit the program, offering her support and encouragement while serving as a mentor to the program participants.

Additionally, Sue volunteers to help coordinate numerous veterans' affairs in Pueblo, including the 2000 Jubilee of Liberty Medal of Honor Ceremony and the Veterans Day celebration at Pueblo Community College. She is a board member for SEEDS (Sharing Electronic Equipment District and Statewide), and helps to secure resources, write grants and allocate supplies for the organization. For the past three years, she has volunteered for the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation's annual Horizons Telethon, the organization's major fundraising event, as a runner, greeter and telephone operator. She also finds time to

volunteer at a number of food drives in Pueblo and even reads to fourth graders at a local elementary school once a week.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Sue Smith is a woman of unparalleled dedication and commitment to her community and to the people with whom she works. It is her unrelenting passion for each and every thing she does, as well as her spirit of honesty and integrity with which she has always conducted herself, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. She is a remarkable woman who has achieved extraordinary things and enriched the lives of so many people. It is my privilege to extend to Sue Smith my congratulations on winning this award and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

THE SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON
THE HONG KONG TRANSITION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, following his visit to Hong Kong in April 1997, then-Speaker Newt Gingrich tasked this Member with the responsibility of creating the House Task Force on Hong Kong's Transition, and of observing and reporting on Hong Kong's status following its return to the People's Republic of China (PRC). Former Speaker Gingrich asked the Task Force to provide the House of Representatives with quarterly reports which was done through the fifth report of February 2, 1999. Following that report Speaker DENNIS HASTERT concurred with this Member's recommendation that the reports be issued on a periodic basis. The Task Force has been bipartisan in nature, with four members chosen from each party. All members of the Task Force were drawn from what was then the International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. They included Representative HOWARD BERMAN (D-CA), Representative SHERROD BROWN (D-OH), Representative ALCEE HASTINGS (D-FL), Representative ENI FALEOMAVAEGA (D-AS), then-Representative Matt Salmon (R-AZ), and Representative DON MANZULLO (R-IL).

On behalf of the Task Force, this Member would like to inform his colleagues that the ninth report of the Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition has been filed. It follows eight previous reports, the most recent of which was dated August 1, 2000. The report focuses on events and developments relevant to U.S. interests in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) between August 2000 and December 31, 2001.

In August 2001, this Member traveled to Hong Kong to meet with senior political officials and routinely meets with delegations from Hong Kong when they visit Washington, D.C. From these meetings, the Task Force has gleaned that the transition continues to progress satisfactorily.

Mr. Speaker, a copy of the Task Force's ninth report is available on this Member's internet website: <http://www.house.gov/beruter/press.htm> under the "Speeches" section.

ON BEHALF OF THE UNIFORMED
FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF
NEW YORK CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a statement from the Uniformed Fire Officers Association of New York. Captain Peter L. Gorman, President of the UFOA, asked that I present this UFOA statement to Congress in memory of the fallen firefighters of New York City and on behalf of the UFOA leadership: Vice-President John E. Ginty, Lt.; Treasurer Arthur J. Parrinello, DC; Recording Secretary Stephen J. Carbone, Lt.; Financial Secretary James J. McGowen, Lt.; Sergeant-At-Arms Michael C. Currid, Capt.; Captain's Representative John J. McDonnell, Capt.; and Chief's Representatives Nicholas J. Visconi, DC and Richard Goldstein, BC. I am proud to present the following UFOA statement, entitled, *It Will Get Worse Before It Gets Better*:

The Uniformed Fire Officers Association represents 2,500 lieutenants, captains, battalion chiefs, deputy chiefs, supervising fire marshals and medical officers of the New York City Fire Department.

The UFOA wishes to thank the Governor and the State Legislation [of New York] for all you have done, almost every time we asked, for our members and their families, especially the widows and children of firefighters killed in the line of duty.

But now we believe state government has a new and even greater responsibility to the public interest, the 8 million people who live in New York City and the millions of commuters and visitors that the FDNY protects every minutes of every day. The Fire Department has been badly crippled to the attack on the world Trade Center, and it will get worse before it gets better. Now an entire city needs your help.

The Fire Department lost 343 members on September 11, 2001. Of that number, 254 were members and 89 were superior officers—45 lieutenants, 20 captains, 17 battalion chiefs, 3 deputy chiefs, 2 staff chiefs, the Chief of the Department, and the First Deputy Commissioner. If that wasn't terrible enough, our Catholic Chaplain was carried to a nearby church and laid to rest at the altar.

It is important that you know what we at the UFOA now know. Many veterans fire officers, more than ever before, are saying they will leave soon, mainly because they feel a heightened obligation to the families.

This year we will be asking you to go beyond anything we've asked the State Legislature and the Governor to do before. We will be asking you to save the New York City Fire Department; to make a commitment to the restoration of a crippled emergency service that may soon lose two and even three times as many veterans fire officers as we lost on September 11.

This struggle isn't just for the fire Department of New York City. It is for every one of the 8 million people who live in our city, and the millions of commuters and visitors we protect every day.

Again, our thanks go to everyone in the State Capitol for all you have done for the FDNY and its firefighters over the year. But no, than every, we need each other. Things are going to get worse for the Fire Department before they get better, and unless you help, things will get worse than that.