

each and every day. The truth is that, while we are caught up in our busy lives and absorbed by our personal concerns, the eternal rhythm of time will persist. And we will not even notice. But all too soon, we will open our eyes and realize that the vision of tomorrow has faded and has become the gift of today. Only then, when America's future has become it's past, on those wintry nights when we are hurrying home, enjoying all the benefits of American society, will we truly be able to appreciate the significance of today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WAYNE THOMPSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to the life, legacy, and memory of Wayne Douglas Thompson. Wayne departed us on June 2, 2002 in his Monte Vista home, and as we mourn his loss, I would like to take the opportunity to honor Wayne—a man of great character and conduct.

Wayne was a native of Colorado, born and raised by Douglas and Agnes Thompson in Monte Vista. He graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1952, and entered Adams State College, graduating with honors in 1956. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served our country courageously through three tours in South Vietnam and also in the Middle East, defending the freedoms and liberties we all hold dear. Wayne served with integrity, and today we honor him as a soldier and a patriot.

After 21 years of military service, Wayne retired from the Marine Corps and returned home to accept a position as the Executive Director of the Colorado Potato Administration Committee. His leadership and guidance have inspired his peers and co-workers—Wayne leads by example and has always taken time to pass along his wisdom to the youth of his community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly honor Wayne before this body of Congress and this nation. He is survived by his two daughters Dawn and Kali, his three grandchildren Nicholas, Melanie, and Devin, and his beloved wife Maryann. Thank you, Wayne, for your many years of service and countless contributions to our society. Although we all mourn the loss of Wayne Thompson, we recognize that he has left a piece of himself with each of those who were lucky enough to have known him.

INTERNATIONAL TAX SIMPLIFICATION, FAIRNESS, AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2002

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill, the "International Tax Simplification, Fairness, and Competitiveness Act of 2002." I have worked for many years with my dear colleague, AMO HOUGHTON, to help bring

sensible and low-cost simplifications and reforms to the U.S. international tax rules. I look forward to working with him this year and in future years on these important issues.

The bill contains a menu of proposals unified by a common theme: The way we tax the income of U.S. companies doing business abroad should reflect the economic realities of doing business abroad and should facilitate the efficient allocation of resources. Guided by that principle, the bill provides a list of possible amendments to the U.S. international tax regime that will simplify the reporting burden, update the rules to reflect the new realities of globalization, enhance the competitiveness of U.S. businesses and their workers, and promote exports. While I do not anticipate that all of these provisions would be enacted at once, and certainly the fiscal impact of any provision must be considered as it progresses through the legislative process including by considering appropriate offsets, I look forward to working to get provisions of the bill enacted into law.

In the context of trade policy I have spoken for some time about the need to address head-on the changing nature of trade which has followed from the phenomenon of economic globalization. That need exists in the international tax sphere, as well. The nature of business and commerce has changed dramatically in the past fifty years and continues to change rapidly. Today, companies regularly take advantage of the gains in efficiency that may come from locating strategically in multiple points around the globe. Not only can strategic location around the globe make U.S. companies more competitive, it also can increase demand for U.S. exports, since U.S. companies operating overseas are very likely to purchase U.S. goods and services. In the trade context, I have worked to establish basic rules of international competition, including a floor of core labor standards, to ensure that there is a level playing field for U.S. companies and workers. Just as we need relentless innovation in our trade policy, we must ensure that our tax policy is keeping up with the realities of domestic and international business.

Additionally, as international business transactions have increased dramatically, it is increasingly necessary to be sure that the rules meet two challenges: they must be updated to prevent new types of abusive transactions with little or no purpose other than the avoidance of U.S. taxes, and at the same time they should not have the effect of deterring or severely burdening transactions undertaken for legitimate and, from the point of view of American competitiveness, desirable, economic reasons.

Toward that end, and as someone who has spent a lot of time working to simplify and improve the U.S. international tax regime, I want to put forth a proposition—although there is a need to discuss the competitive implications of the U.S. international tax rules and there is a need for simplification, the issue of corporate inversions does not provide an appropriate vehicle for that discussion.

Corporate inversions are not truly about the complexities of the U.S. international tax rules; they are driven by tax avoidance, plain and simple.

Whether a corporation is headquartered in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Japan, or the United States, it has a tax-based incentive to do an inversion into a tax haven. Coming

from any OECD country with a responsible tax authority, an inversion into a tax haven will allow a company to avoid the relevant passive income rules, embodied in subpart F of the U.S. Tax Code, but in existence in one form or another throughout the OECD.

Also, once a corporation from any OECD country has undertaken an inversion, the corporation can reap further tax benefits through earnings stripping transactions that avoid domestic taxes on domestic-source income.

So, the corporate inversion phenomenon is not about territorial systems versus the U.S. modified worldwide system of taxation. An inversion results in a tax regime more favorable than either of these systems. Any attempt to turn the inversion phenomenon into an indictment of the U.S. system is therefore misguided. Inversions are about tax havens versus devoted taxing jurisdictions like those in OECD countries. The only "business reason" driving an inversion—reflected in disclosure filings accompanying each inversion reassuring shareholders that the transaction will not impact business operations—is tax avoidance.

I will therefore resist any effort to draw a false link between the inversion phenomenon and the need for reform of the U.S. international tax rules. I believe that consideration of legislation to close off inversions is important and should be considered on its own merits, similarly, legislation to reform and simplify the U.S. international tax rules to improve the competitiveness of U.S. companies is important and should be considered on its own merits. Attempts to link the two issues together will only add unnecessary difficulty and will jeopardize the types of needed changes included in the bill introduced today.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOORHEESVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to recognize with gratitude the 100th Anniversary of the Voorheesville Volunteer Fire Department, which is located in my congressional district in Albany County, New York.

For more than a century, members of the Voorheesville Volunteer Fire Department have put their lives on the line—day in and day out—to ensure the safety and well being of the citizens of the Village of Voorheesville and its surrounding communities.

Founded April 1, 1902, the Voorheesville Fire Department enjoys a rich tradition of heroism and service. Never have these most admirable qualities been so honorably displayed than by the heroic rescue efforts of firefighters from across New York State following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Through their actions, Mr. Speaker, we understand true patriotism.

The heroic efforts of our "First Responders" are finally being given the recognition they have always deserved.

I proudly extend my highest regard to the Department's President, Richard Berger, to its Fire Chief, Michael Wiesmaier, and to all of

the volunteer firefighters and their families. They have my best wishes for continued safe and successful service.

FBI's MILLIE PARSONS RETIRES—
AT AGE 88 AFTER NEARLY 63
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of our colleagues the remarkable career of a dedicated federal employee who just retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation after nearly 63 years of service to her country.

When Mrs. Mildred C. Parsons—known as “Millie”—ended her career on June 28 at age 88, she was the longest continuously serving employee in the FBI. What's even more extraordinary, Millie Parsons never took a day of sick leave in her 62 years and nine months of work at the FBI.

She was 25 years old in September 1939—Franklin D. Roosevelt was president of the United States and World War II was beginning—when she began her career at the FBI as a junior clerk-typist in the chief clerk's office at FBI headquarters.

The next year she transferred to the Washington Field Office, where, over the course of her career, Mrs. Parsons served as the secretary to 30 agents in charge of that office, the second largest division in the FBI. She proudly displayed all the portraits of her bosses lining a corridor leading to her office.

Van A. Harp, assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, recently commented that “Millie, who embodies all the positive attributes of Fidelity, Bravery and Integrity, has certainly contributed to the fine reputation of the FBI. Her career and dedication have been a hallmark for those who follow in her path. Millie will be missed by all of her associates.”

A native of Frederick, Maryland, and a widow since 1967, Mrs. Parsons has lived in the Maryland suburbs of the nation's capital during her career with the FBI. She says she plans to relax and travel—now that she has some leisure time.

Mr. Speaker, Millie Parsons stands as an outstanding role model for all in public service to emulate. We wish her the best in her retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF LIVER DISEASE RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. LYNCH, to introduce legislation to improve treatment options for millions of Americans living with liver disease. The “Liver Research Enhancement Act” organizes and

streamlines the efforts by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to combat liver disease by creating a comprehensive vision of how to fight this epidemic in our country. This bill establishes a National Center on Liver Research, which will work with a Liver Disease Advisory Board within the National Institutes of Health to construct a Liver Disease Research Action Plan. The national plan will help coordinate research currently administered by 14 different institutes and centers at the NIH. By prioritizing research goals, the NIH will be able to maximize its liver research.

The need for liver research and an effective funding projection is critical to our Nation's health. At present, it is estimated that twenty-five million people in the United States suffer from a liver or liver-related disease. Every year as many as fifteen thousand children are hospitalized by their illness. The medical care for individuals with liver disease each year costs over 5.5 billion dollars annually. Over four million Americans are afflicted with Hepatitis C alone, a disease claiming ten thousand lives each year and with no vaccine available. Without the proper public health measures, that number is expected to rise to thirty thousand a year. At this time, the majority of cases of Hepatitis C have no effective treatments. In addition, a newly discovered liver disease related to obesity, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) could touch one in every four adults in the United States. At the same time, the waiting list for liver transplants stretches over 17,500 patients, of which only 5,100 receive livers and 1,300 die hoping for a transplant. The time has come to greatly improve liver research and preserve the public health for future generations.

The Center on Liver Research, to be based in the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, will provide the much-needed leadership to ensure that the liver research opportunities are increased and that promising medical leads do not go unexplored. The Liver Disease Advisory Board will suggest future funding priorities and recognize underperformance as well as achievement in the field. The Center's first mission will be to make an action plan to deal with research to prevent, cure and treat liver disease in America. By establishing this unifying bond for the 14 different institutes involved in liver research, this bill will make liver research more effective and responsive to the needs of the liver community.

I have enclosed letters from the American Liver Foundation and the Hepatitis Foundation International endorsing this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

AMERICAN LIVER FOUNDATION,
June 18, 2002.

HON. DAN MILLER,
Cannon House Office Bldg.,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MILLER: The purpose of this letter is to express, on behalf of the American Liver Foundation (ALF), our strong support and enthusiasm for your leadership to pursue enactment of the Liver Research Enhancement Act.

As you know, approximately 10% of the population, or over 25,000,000 Americans, are afflicted with liver, bile duct or gallbladder disease and over 4 million Americans have been infected with hepatitis C. The CDC has projected that deaths due to hepatitis C will

more than triple by the year 2010 to more than 30,000 deaths per year unless there are appropriate research and public health interventions. Furthermore, due to limited research, current treatments for hepatitis C are effective in fewer than 50 percent of the cases. As such, hepatitis C is a leading cause for liver transplants in the United States, but the availability of liver transplants, as you know, falls far short of the need. These are numerous liver diseases other than hepatitis C such as primary biliary cirrhosis affecting 15 out of every 100,000 Americans with 95% of the infected population being women. Finally, there is an emerging obesity-related chronic liver disease, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), that may affect as many as 1 in every 4 adults over the age of 18.

Mr. Miller, your legislation to create a National Center on Liver Disease Research at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) will provide the dedicated scientific leadership necessary to create an action plan for liver disease research, and new authorities necessary to help assure that the scientific opportunities identified by the Liver Disease Research Action Plan are adequately funded. The coordination and focus this Center will provide for liver disease research will help increase our ability to find better treatments and cures for the millions of Americans inflicted with liver diseases.

We thank you for your tireless leadership on this issue and for all of your persistence in working to better the health of the nation. We stand ready to support the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. BERK, MD,
Chairman of the
Board of Directors,
ALAN P. BROWNSTEIN,
MPH,
President and CEO.

HEPATITIS FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL,
June 26, 2002.

Hon. Dan Miller,
Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MILLER: Hepatitis Foundation International (HFI) would like to express our support for the Liver Research Enhancement Act.

As you know, approximately 10% of the nation's population suffer from liver, bile duct, or gallbladder disease and over 4 million Americans have been infected with Hepatitis C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has projected that deaths due to Hepatitis C will more than triple by the year 2010 to more than 30,000 deaths per year unless there are appropriate research and public health interventions.

Mr. Miller, your legislation to create a National Center on Liver Disease Research at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) will provide the leadership necessary to create an action plan for liver disease research. The coordination and focus of this Center will help increase our ability to find better treatments and cures for the millions of Americans suffering with liver diseases.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your persistence in working to better the health of all Americans. We offer our support for the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

THELMA KING THIEL,
Chairwoman and CEO.