

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT SCHEDULED TAX RELIEF SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED OR REPEALED

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we made a promise to the American taxpayer last year when Congress worked together with the President to return a portion of the excessive taxes the government collected. Now it seems some are calling for Congress to break that commitment and reverse some of the tax refunds. It is bad enough when the government collects too many taxes. But it is even worse when the government tries to take back money for the second time—money we have already promised to return.

Mr. Speaker, I have had hundreds of my constituents from the Fourth District of Kansas tell me that they were so grateful for the tax relief signed into law last year. I would hate to have to tell them that Congress has changed its mind, that we are not really going to return as much money as we originally agreed to do.

Taxpaying families pay too much as it is. Rather than raise taxes, we need to affirm that the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 was good for all Americans last year, and it is still good for all Americans this year. Congress worked hard with the President, in a bipartisan fashion, to return some of the excessive taxes to the working people of America. And we should declare that the tax relief should go on as scheduled over the next decade. More than that, Mr. Speaker, Congress should make the tax cuts permanent.

Today I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 312, the resolution that affirms tax relief for all taxpayers. The American people need to know that we are serious about our commitments. And especially during this time of economic recession, we must declare our resolve to the hard-working men and women who pay taxes that we will not break our promise. We will not raise your taxes.

Mr. Speaker, keep the tax cuts in place.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL
FRANZBLAU

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. Michael Franzblau, for his many accomplishments. Chief among them is his pursuit of justice as manifested in his efforts to expose Nazi war criminals with particular emphasis on those in the medical pro-

fession. Dr. Franzblau's persistence in revealing the misdeeds of Dr. Hans Joachim Sewering of Bavaria demonstrates this dedication. Sewering is known to have murdered infants and children in a doctor-drive project "To Cleanse the Fatherland." A World War II veteran and an avowed enemy of perverted medical research, Dr. Franzblau successfully lobbied the AMA to back efforts to expose Sewering, leading to his resignation as President-elect of the World Medical Association. Michael Franzblau was also instrumental in developing legislation, H. Res. 557, that I sponsored, calling for an investigation into Sewering's war crimes; H. Res. 557 passed the House unanimously in 1998.

Dr. Franzblau had a full medical practice in Marin (Dermatology) and was a retired Professor of Dermatology at the University of California School of Medicine in San Francisco. He has lectured there and elsewhere on the ethics of health care in the Nazi era. Married to Donna Garfield Franzblau for 47 years and the father of three now grown children, Dr. Michael Franzblau has found the time to dedicate himself to other medical causes locally, nationally, and abroad. These include service on California's Medical Quality Review Committee, American Medical Association, and Marin Medical Society; international humanitarian work for Project Hope in Peru, Alliance for Health in Mexico, and a fact finding mission to Ethiopia regarding medical care for 26,000 Ethiopian Jews; assisting in the establishment of the Marin Community Clinic; and authoring bills for the California State Legislature to regulate tanning facilities and to exclude physician participation in executions at San Quentin. The American Cancer Society awarded him for arranging free skin cancer screening clinics in Marin. Dr. Franzblau also served his community on the United Way and Terra Linda Community Services Board.

Dr. Franzblau has devoted his considerable energy to Jewish causes. He served on the Anti-Defamation League, American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Jewish Community Federation Missions to Israel, Maimonides Society (Marin and Sonoma), and the Marin Jewish Community Center. His passion and dedication have earned him a number of awards, including "The Truth and Justice Award" of the Anti-Defamation League and the "Louis D. Brandeis Award" of the Zionist Organization of America.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Franzblau is an exemplary citizen and a model of the Hippocratic ideal. His dedication to important causes of justice and humanity, reinforced by the persistent hard work required to accomplish his goals, have earned him the admiration and respect of his community. Dr. Franzblau has long been a university lecturer, but his most important lesson to us goes far beyond the classroom: The health of the individual and the health of society are integrally related, and both are the responsibility of the physician.

ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS ARE NEEDED

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge that a conference on patient protection legislation be called immediately. The House passed this bill last year and the delay in its enactment is impacting people in my state and beneficiaries in my district. In particular, a recent unfortunate event in California only illustrates the need for timely action on patients' bill of rights legislation, particularly my amendment on association health plans (AHPs).

For several years, Sunkist, the world-renowned citrus and agriculture grower, contracted for a health benefit plan for its growers and workers. The SGP Benefit Plan, a multiple employer welfare arrangement, was regulated under California insurance law, which had some provisions for cash reserves and other protections.

Late last year, the SGP Benefit Plan collapsed and filed for bankruptcy. As a result more than 23,000 participants, including 4,000 Kern and Tulare county beneficiaries, were left without direct health coverage. This interruption of care troubles me, especially since timely passage of the House patient protection bill, supported by President Bush and bipartisan House Members, could have prevented the situation these families are facing today.

Under the House bill, these multiple employer welfare arrangements would be classified as AHPs and be subject to strict solvency standards, including requirements that AHPs have an indemnified back-up plan to prevent unpaid claims in the event of a plan termination, quarterly procedures to demonstrate financial health, and surplus reserve requirements that are on par or greater than similar state law.

Along with requiring higher standards for multiple employer welfare arrangements and other similar employer pool arrangements, the added benefit of my AHP legislation is that it could increase access to health care by reducing burdens and costs employer groups face from multiplicitous and divergent state mandates. Since AHPs would help small businesses work together to purchase health care for their employees and families, according to one study of this legislation, AHPs could reduce the number of uninsured Americans by an estimated 8.5 million people. This is especially timely, since the recent recession and terrorist attacks have affected national employment, thus having an effect on the health care of Americans who depend on employer-sponsored coverage.

In the 21st District of California that I represent, the unemployment rates in Kern and Tulare Counties recently hit 11 percent and 16 percent, respectively. With the District's dependence on agriculture, oil, dairy, and other small business, the potential for AHPs to help

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

provide access or improve health are to my constituents and the self-employed is great.

Sunkist's recent announcement, the rise in the number of uninsured, and the fact that patients, physicians, and other providers have waited too long for reforms are all compelling reasons why patient protection legislation must be enacted soon. Because the House legislation includes many common-sense improvements in patient access, coverage, and liability, along with the important AHP and medical savings accounts provisions, I urge that a conference on this bill be called immediately.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MACK TIMBERLAKE

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to a dedicated man, husband, father and servant of God, Mack Timberlake. Bishop Timberlake died at the age of fifty-two on January 29, 2002. As senior pastor of the Christian Faith Center in Creedmoor, North Carolina, Mack's creed was to live life to the fullest while fulfilling the vision God has given us.

I extend my dearest sympathies to Mack's wife, Brenda, and their six children. She, like Mack, has devoted her life to serving our Lord and His children. Together, Mack and Brenda have authored seven books.

Bishop Timberlake and I worked together on promoting the faith-based initiative. It is sad that he will not be able to see the fruits of his labor, but I am certain he would be glad to know we are closer with each passing day to making that idea a reality. Serving the least of our brethren is a noble goal Mack never lost sight of. When I continue to work on this endeavor, I will most certainly think of him.

The career of Mack Timberlake was quite extensive. He served as regent on the Board of Trustees for Oral Roberts University, was given an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Jameson Christian College, wrote a monthly column for "Gospel Today," was the superintendent of nearly 300 students at the Christian Faith Center Academy, co-owned a boutique and served on the Board of Governors for the National Faith Based Initiative.

It is always difficult to say goodbye to a loved one. But it is always a blessing to have known someone who made a difference in people's lives. Mack Timberlake did indeed live life to its fullest while preaching the Gospel and working to make our country, one nation under God, a better one. For that, we are all blessed.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVE LESSTRANG

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to express my gratitude and appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Dave LesStrang, who for the past 17 years has been a highly-valued member of my of-

fice, first as press secretary, and then as deputy chief of staff and legislative director.

Dave LesStrang came to work for me in 1985, a newly-minted 21-year-old college graduate, filled with the zeal and fervor that can only come from participation in college political groups like the Young Americans for Freedom. We hired him as a press secretary, hoping he would grow into the job over time.

It didn't take long for Dave to show the flair for organizing and completing big projects that has marked his career as a congressional staff member. One of my constituents, Hulda Crooks, completed her 21st climb of Mt. Whitney at the age of 89. When I congratulated her, I remarked that I would like to join her if she wanted to try again at 90. She said "sure," and within a few days called to ask if I was getting ready for the hike. I asked Dave to take on the job of organizing the event. He spent long hours working out details and convincing major media of its importance—with the result that the Los Angeles Times carried my photo on its cover for one of the few times in my career in the House.

Years later, Dave helped me convince the Interior Department to name a mountain near Mt. Whitney as Crooks' Peak in honor of that outstanding lady.

Dave indeed grew into the job as press secretary. He is an excellent writer, and over the years has produced thousands of press releases, speeches, constituent letters and other important correspondence that often defines the character of a congressional office. Members of the media praised my office for providing clear and dependable information, a highly valued reputation that we gained in no small part because of Dave's efforts.

He also came to intimately know the needs and character of the Inland Empire and High Desert areas of California, which I have represented for the past two decades. He has personally taken on the cause of an untold number of constituents, ensuring that federal agencies meet their responsibilities and provide top service. A typical example occurred just last year: One of my constituents asked for help in gaining recognition for her father, a pioneer engineer in space technology, from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Dave not only got NASA's attention, he helped convince the agency to award the constituent's father the Distinguished Service medal, the highest to be given to civilians.

Dave's willingness to go the extra mile and get spectacular results was also evident on a number of larger-scale projects.

When I was named as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies, I was committed to finding ways for more people to reach the American dream of owning their own home. I decided that it would be a powerful symbolic gesture for members of Congress to help build some houses for low-income residents of our nation's capital.

I asked Dave to take on the project, and it soon blossomed into one of the most high-profile charitable efforts ever attempted by House members. Working with Habitat for Humanity, and with the enthusiastic support of Speaker Newt Gingrich and Fannie Mae, Dave organized the Houses That Congress Built, a nationwide campaign that saw nearly all 435 house members personally help build homes in their districts. The effort provided a tremen-

dous boost for the effort to provide affordable homes to low-income Americans. And true to his spirit of going above and beyond, Dave has personally volunteered for hundreds of hours on his own working on Habitat for Humanity houses.

Most of the colleagues from California will remember Dave for the other major success he helped accomplish in recent years: The organizing of our delegation into an effective, cooperative force for the people of California.

When I became chairman of the California Republican Congressional Delegation in 1995, there was little cooperation even among members of my conference, let alone across the aisle in our delegation. Members were divided by personalities, geography and partisanship, and the entire delegation had not come together on an issue since it had been grown beyond 50 members in 1980. Dave helped to reverse that historical trend. As the only staff member serving all California Republicans, he spent hundreds of hours meeting with staff from other California offices and personally walked miles in our congressional buildings winning signatures for delegation-wide letters. Within a year, we had the first letter signed by all 52 members—a feat that is now repeated regularly as our members have learned the value of working together on behalf of our state.

Since he became my legislative director in 1999, Dave has helped me complete many major projects serving our district. Congress has agreed to the expansion of the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, completing a decades-long effort in support of the world's finest training facility. The Seven Oaks Dam has been dedicated along the Santa Ana River, providing flood control protection for millions of people in Southern California. And the new national parks in our desert are becoming good neighbors for the constituents who live around them.

I have always felt that members of my staff are like members of my family, and it has been a pleasure to watch Dave mature in his personal life even as he has become a consummate professional in his job. We were delighted when he met and married Elaine Dalpiaz nine years ago, and thrilled again when he and Elaine became parents to Matthew nearly two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, after 17 years in my office providing these invaluable services to my constituents—and indeed to all Californians and Americans—Dave LesStrang is moving on to a new career working for the EMC Corporation, a cutting-edge firm providing data storage to help protect the records of private industry and government. Please join me in thanking him for his dedication and years of service, and in wishing him and Elaine well in all of their future efforts.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF THE GRANT HIGH SCHOOL WE THE PEOPLE CLASS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, On May 4-6, 2002, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington,