

as Honorary Host for such events as Israel's 50th Anniversary Celebration, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services Anniversary Banquet, and the Annual Lem Tucker Scholarship Program.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I submit this tribute to be included in the archives of the history of our country. It is men like Donald who make this Nation great. Although Southfield is sad to lose his services, I wish him well in his future endeavors.

TED MALIARIS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ted Maliaris for his dedication to our great nation through his music. Ted is leading the "A Tribute to America Tour" following the tragic events of September 11.

Ted was born in South Florida in January of 1969. Music has long been a part of his life, inspired particularly by his grandmother and the sweet sounds of her violin. A farmer by trade, Ted feels a close connection to the land of this great country, and he used his time on the farm to develop the music which he now shares with so many people. Two years after deciding to follow his dream, Ted had even recorded his first album with The London Symphony Orchestra.

To stir inspiration and patriotism all across America, Ted Maliaris is now touring the United States performing "A Tribute to America—A 21st Century Anthem" which was composed by his mother, Ann S. Miller, who dedicated the Anthem to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

I urge all our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great American, Ted Maliaris.

TRIBUTE TO DR. J. PATRICK MORAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American patriot, Dr. J. Patrick Moran of Corpus Christi.

Dr. Moran is a much beloved physician in the Coastal Bend of Texas and is being honored by the Spohn Health System next week with the Physician Leadership Award. He is receiving this recognition for his excellence in health care service to our community.

Dr. Moran has practiced medicine for 40 years at Spohn Hospital, and prior to that, interned at hospitals around the world. That international experience prepared this Minnesota native for much of what he has seen in his South Texas practice.

The totality of his experience makes him the "go-to" guy for young doctors and other health care providers in the area who get stumped on a medical question.

I consider Dr. Moran a brother and depend on him for wise counsel, as well as for back channel information about what is being said in Corpus Christi regarding a host of issues. He knows what people are saying.

We remain very close and keep in touch with each other despite our wild schedules. Dr. Moran literally has his finger on the pulse of the community and works hard to find ways to improve quality of life for our citizens.

He is a giant in the South Texas area and in the larger Texas medical community, and I am delighted he is receiving the recognition he so richly deserves. He embodies all that a doctor should be.

This man of faith holds a special place in the hearts of many of our friends and neighbors. Like many great men, he is supported by his beautiful wife of many years, Nancy, and their children, Pat Jr., Serena, Colleen, and Maria.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending this special patriot. Please join me and the Spohn Health System in honoring him for the work of his lifetime with the Physician Leadership Award.

HONORING MORRIS AND SCOTT ATLAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Morris and Scott Atlas upon their receipt of the Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). For 15 years, the Southwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League has recognized leaders within the legal community for exemplary contributions to the legal community and the award, named in memory of Karen H. Susman, a distinguished civic leader and former chair of the ADL regional board, salutes the recipient's outstanding civic activities and their continued dedication to the mission of the ADL.

It is certainly fitting that this year's recipients are Morris and Scott Atlas. They have been long-time friends of my family and myself and are two of the most distinguished individuals I know. Morris Atlas is among the "builders" of today's Rio Grande Valley and a leader of the University of Texas School of Law, from which he graduated. His son, Scott Atlas, is among the most prominent litigators in Texas. His clients have included both powerful corporations and the least powerful within our society. Above all, Scott, like his father, has been active in the development of Houston as a world-class city.

Morris Atlas is the Managing Partner of the McAllen, TX, law firm, Atlas & Hall, L.L.P., which he founded in 1952. Morris has worked hard to expand and improve higher education in the state of Texas. He chaired the Pan American University Board of Regents and was instrumental in the effort to bring that institution into the University of Texas System. His involvement was instrumental in securing \$245 million in improvement funding for five South Texas universities in the UT System. He is a Life Member Trustee and part President of the UT Law School Foundation and currently chairs the Chancellor's Council of the UT System.

Morris has long been committed to the delivery of health care and human services. He has served on the boards of McAllen General Hospital and the Vannie E. Cook, Jr. Cancer Center, the Scott & White Memorial Hospital

Board of Visitors, the State Board of Public Welfare Task Force for the Evaluation of Medicaid, and the Senate Committee for the Study of Human Services Delivery. He was a leader in the efforts to bring a university rural health care program to South Texas.

Scott Atlas' service to the community has earned him the praise and respect of his colleagues and neighbors. A partner at Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Scott is a graduate of Yale and the University of Texas School of Law, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Texas Law Review. He has built a reputation as an outstanding trial lawyer in business disputes and a leader and innovator in the delivery of pro bono legal services. He recently argued successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court, and obtained his client's release from a life sentence. He is currently Chair-Elect of the American Bar Association's 65,000-member Section of Litigation and previously served as a member of its governing Council and Executive Committee.

Scott is largely responsible for Vinson & Elkins' national reputation as an innovator of pro bono legal services. The law firm has received numerous local, state and national awards for their work. In 1983, Scott organized the Texas Appointment Plan, which recruited and now coordinates over 125 law firms statewide to provide volunteer attorneys to indigents on federal court appeals. Scott has received the ABA's Pro Bono Award for "contribut[ing] significant work toward developing innovative approaches to the delivery of volunteer legal services to the poor," and was named "Lawyer of the Year" by the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Anti-Defamation League in recognizing the selflessness and commitment to the public good of Morris and Scott Atlas. The Atlas family tradition of service to the community is an example for future generations. The work of these two men gives life to the mission of the Anti-Defamation League—standing steadfast on the front-lines against racism, prejudice and bigotry of all kinds. I commend both Morris and Scott on receiving this award and more importantly, their work to promote tolerance and build respect among diverse racial, religious and ethnic groups.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSTOWN, COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Johnstown, CO, celebrating its 100th year.

Johnstown was platted by Henry J. Parish in 1902. Mr. Parish named the town in honor of his son, John Parish, who was in a Denver hospital ill with appendicitis at the time. Henry Parish told his son if he got well, he would name the town after him, hence the name Johnstown. Many of the streets in Johnstown were also named in honor of John's brothers and sisters, and these streets still exist today.

Since it's founding, Johnstown has been a wonderful place to live. It exemplifies the quintessential country town. Johnstown's friendly residents enjoy strong family values and are

also active in the community. Not only is Johnstown a great place to start and raise a family, it is also a great place to retire.

As a town located in Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Johnstown is a source of pride for the community and the people of Colorado. Throughout the course of history it has been the home of many Coloradans. It is with honor and pride I wish Johnstown a happy 100th birthday. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to Johnstown, CO.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I regret that I cannot vote for this bill today, but unfortunately the way the Republican leadership has brought it to the floor makes that impossible.

There are many things in this bill that I support, especially provisions similar to those in H.R. 2695. That bill, introduced by the gentleman from New York, Mr. HOUGHTON, would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude stock options and employee stock purchase plans from the definition of wages for purposes of employment taxes. This is a clarification that is very important to many of my constituents and to other people across the country and that needs to be enacted without unnecessary delay.

I also support enactment of most of the other provisions of this bill—particularly the sections dealing with tax penalties and interest, collection procedures, confidentiality and disclosure, and tax administration. They are desirable improvements in current law.

But that isn't true with regard to another provision—the one dealing with the disclosure of information about donations to and expenditures by certain political groups.

Under section 527 of the Tax Code, limited tax-exempt status is available for "issue advocacy" groups organized for the primary purpose of accepting contributions and making expenditures to influence elections at the Federal, State, or local level. Until 2 years ago, these "527" political organizations did not have to report to anybody about the source of their contributions or the beneficiaries of their expenditures. They could and did operate free from public scrutiny and free from public accountability.

That changed with enactment of the 527 Organization Disclosure bill, which now is Public Law 106-230. Under that law, if the groups want to keep their tax-exempt status they generally must let the public know where they get their money and the political purposes for which it is spent. I strongly supported that important change. But one provision of this bill threatens to undo much of that important reform by retroactively exempting some groups that now are covered by the disclosure law.

I understand that some careful adjustment of the scope of the disclosure legislation might be appropriate, but I am concerned that the exemption in this bill is so broad that it might in effect create a major loophole that could be

exploited by groups that would not be subject to comparable disclosure requirement under applicable law. That could go far to undermine the campaign-finance reform so recently signed into law.

If this bill had been brought to the floor under more normal procedures, there would have been more time for debate on this and other provisions, and the House could have considered amendments to lessen the possible abuse of this exemption. However, the Republican leadership instead has insisted on using a procedure that limits debate and does not allow any amendments.

I cannot support that approach, and I cannot support the bill's provisions related to these political groups. So, under the procedures chosen by the Republican leadership, I have no choice but to vote against the entire bill today. My hope is that if the bill does not pass today, the Republican leadership will bring it back under a fairer procedure that will permit changes that would allow me to vote for its passage.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3991, the Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act. In an otherwise non-controversial bill, Republicans have, once again, displayed their true agenda by inserting a provision to circumvent the campaign finance reform bill that was just signed into law. It is the height of hypocrisy for the House Republicans to pass broad campaign finance reform in March and then create loopholes to the law in April.

In 2000, Congress passed a law that requires campaign finance reporting disclosure of section 527, non-profit political organizations. While most 527 organizations report their activities to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and their income tax to the IRS, there was a subset of 527 organizations, both conservative and liberal, are active in political advertising and direct mail. Prior to enactment of the 2000 law, however, these organizations were not required to disclose who they received contributions from or how much. Congress corrected this specific campaign finance problem by requiring disclosure of those making large contributions to these types of 527 organizations. And just last month, Congress passed and the President signed broader campaign finance reform legislation. The bill before us today guts the success of these two campaign finance bills by creating a new loophole for section 527 organizations to raise and spend soft money contributions without having to disclose the activity to anyone.

To protect the integrity of campaign finance reform, Congressman DOGGETT offered an amendment in the Ways & Means Committee to ensure that section 527 political organizations could not circumvent our new campaign finance laws. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues have already made big plans to use these loopholes for raising money, so the amendment failed along party lines. A recent

report by Public Citizen shows that the existing section 527 IRS disclosure system suffers from serious flaws and allows many of these groups to skirt the law. We should be correcting the shortcomings of the 2000 law and strengthening the disclosure system—not weakening it. Our Republican friends, however, want more loopholes so they can keep stuffing their pockets with soft money cash.

It is time for this Congress to put an end to campaign finance reform hypocrisy. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 3991.

HONORING BILLIE WARD

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Billie Ward in recognition of her dedication and commitment to her community.

Billie Ward is retiring on April 17 as the executive director of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center—capping a lifetime of community service in southeastern Connecticut.

Billie has left a mark on southeastern Connecticut like few others have. As its executive director, Billie led the PNC through a period of unprecedented growth. She also played a pivotal role in organizing the PNC's Senior Summit, an important brainstorming effort that laid the groundwork for the formation of the Tri-Neighbor Transportation coalition—a collaborative effort to provide transportation for the elderly and handicapped and ensure that these individuals arrive to their medical appointments safely and on time.

In addition to her work with the PNC, Billie has been actively involved with numerous professional associations and has received numerous awards. Groups like the Rose City Land Trust, the Thames Valley Council for Community Action, MASH, the Basic Needs Network, the Rotary Club, the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut and the Southeastern Connecticut AIDS Project are just a few organizations that have been blessed with Billie's hard-work and service.

Mr. Speaker, Billie Ward embodies the spirit of kindness and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. She has helped many individuals in need over the years and I am proud to represent her in my district. Billie is a model citizen to the community and I extend my thanks to her and her efforts, and am proud to bring her accomplishments to the attention of this Congress.

Keep up the good work Billie, and good luck in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER DIANE AHRENS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the RECORD my tribute to an outstanding public servant, an advocate for the most vulnerable in our society, a fearless reformer who rooted out cronyism in our county government, and a role model to the young women in the