

enemy fire providing clear and concise guidance to his squad and effectively eliminated one gun position. He laid down covering fire, which enabled the patrol to disengage from the main enemy force and withdraw to another position."

Following Private First Class Craigg's heroic actions, his Commanding Officer informed him that he was going to officially recommend him for the Silver Star Medal. Unfortunately, Mr. Craigg's Commanding Officer was killed in action before this recommendation could be made. Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, while Mr. Craigg's Commanding Officer could no longer retell the story of his courageous actions that Day in 1942, others never forgot what he did, and as a result, I am proud to say that on March 30th, Mr. Craigg will be awarded the Silver Star Medal for "extraordinary heroism in the face of extreme danger."

Amazingly enough Mr. Speaker, Mr. Craigg's story does not end here. Shortly after this battle, Private First Class Craigg would be captured by Japanese forces on the Bataan Peninsula only to escape a short time later and make his way via boat to the island of Corregidor where he would engage the enemy in battle once again.

After 28 days of further fighting however, the Marines and Sailors on Corregidor were ordered to surrender and they were taken back to Bataan where Private First Class Craigg would survive the infamous Bataan death march. Mr. Craigg was eventually sent on a brutal trip to Japan where he would spend more than two years working in coal mines while enduring severe starvation and beatings. As a result of the beatings he received, Mr. Craigg will also be receiving his third award of the Purple Heart on March 30th.

Despite his traumatic experience as a prisoner of war, Mr. Craigg returned to the ranks and participated in the historic American invasion at Inchon, Korea with the 7th Marine Regiment. In October of 1963, Mr. Craigg retired from the United States Marines Corps with the rank of Gunnery Sergeant.

After his retirement, Mr. Craigg's passion for the armed service did not wane. He became very involved in his local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and from 1981–1983 served as State Commander.

Though born in Arkansas, Mr. Craigg made the wise decision of marrying a North Carolinian, the late Anne Toler. The Craigg family also includes 5 children: Beverly, Joan, David, Carroll Wayne and Thomas III. Mr. Craigg now resides in Jacksonville, which is also fittingly the home of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

There are few words to aptly praise the courage, sacrifice, and heart it takes to serve his country the way Mr. Craigg did during his twenty-two years in the United States Marine Corps. As an American, I am deeply grateful for the sacrifices made all those years ago. As a man, I am awed by Mr. Craigg's dedication to his community, his country, and, of course, his family. And as a United States Congressman, I am humbled by the privilege of being allowed the opportunity to share the accomplishments of Gunnery Sergeant Thomas A. Craigg, Jr.

We salute you, Mr. Craigg. Your most recent awards have been a long time in coming, but it is well deserved. God Bless you!

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concern with H.R. 3991, the Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act, because of the "527" provision hidden inside of it. This provision is a feeble attempt by the GOP leadership to gut campaign finance reform by attaching a controversial provision to a popular and passable taxpayer protection bill.

The "527" provision would have opened a loophole in the recently passed campaign finance bill by permitting thousands of dollars of campaign contributions to escape public disclosure. The problem lies in the bill's provisions to exempt state and local 527s from Federal reporting as long as they are required to report "substantially similar" information at the state level. My problem with that is who would be the judge of what "substantially similar" means? The bill makes it easier for federal candidates and party officials to solicit funds and coordinate campaigns with 527s. The bottom line is that this provision would make it extremely difficult to track these groups and their activities.

I want a real solution that would ease the federal filing requirements while closing all loopholes. I cannot allow all of our progress made from passing the campaign finance bill to be underscored by voting for a bill with a poison pill inserted into it. The amount of hard work and support put into the campaign finance reform bill cannot be allowed to be undone by passing H.R. 3991.

A TOWN MEETING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to inform you about a very important and exciting Town Meeting for Young People that I held at the University of Vermont on Monday, April 8, 2002. This meeting brought young people together from all over the state of Vermont to discuss some of the most pressing issues facing our country. Fifteen high schools and youth organizations and about 100 students attended this all day event and provided some excellent and well-researched testimony that I intend, at a later date, to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I want to thank UVM President Edward Colodny for welcoming the students to UVM, and I want to thank the University for their hospitality. I also want to thank Professor Huck Gutman for spending the entire day with the students and me and doing an excellent job in flushing out their ideas.

Let me at this time mention to you who was at the event and some of the topics that they addressed. Let me also suggest that other Members might be interested in putting on similar events in their congressional districts.

The young people of this country have a lot to say, and I think that it's important for members of Congress to listen to them.

Following are the names of the students who participated in the Town Meeting and their schools or youth organizations: Jessica Walters and Falinda Hough from the Lund Family Center discussed problems relating to Teenage Drinking; Dan Hill from YouthBuild Burlington discussed Affordable Housing issues; Becca Van Hrn, Eli Brannon and Sam Parker from Proctor High School talked about "Free Trade not being Fair Trade"; Lee Goldsmith, Greg Howard and Robby Short from Mt. Anthony High School spoke about Student ID cards; Ruth Blake from Straight Talk Vermont talked about the Teen Expressions Dance Company; Troy Ault, Reid Garrow, Stefanie Gray, Danielle Harvey and Andrea Shahan from Straight Talk Vermont discussed the Problem of Child Labor, Erica Hollner, Katie Kervorkian, Kerry McIntosh and Bethany Wallace from Mt. Anthony High School talked about being pen pals with students in Pakistan; Matt Alden from the Craftsby School spoke about Underage Drinking; Candace Crosby, Kim Dickenson, Katie Lanigan and Gladys Wong from Spaulding High School discussed the issue of Inadequate Financial Aid for College; Steph Bernath, Nicolette Baron, Alan Blackman and Halie Paradee from Lamoille High School talked about the rights of Abenaki Indians in Vermont; Marcia Lo Monoco, Sarah Kunz, Delia Kipp and Colin Robinson from Brattleboro High School talked about CLEA-Child Labor Education Action and their trip to Guatemala; Joseph Ferris from Rutland High School talked about the importance of Amtrak; Sean Fontaine, James Nichols and Krystal Turnbaugh from YouthBuild Burlington discussed issues related to Juvenile Justice; Katie Blanchard, Cady Merrill, Jesse Butler and Stephanie Horvath from Rutland High School talked about the issue of Abortion and parental involvement; Kelly Green from Craftsby School talked about the Cost of College and the Burden of Debt; Peter Hicks, Kristy Lamb, Brittany Hickman, Evan Worth and Nick Smith from Lamoille High School discussed Education Reform; Travis Buck from Mt. Abraham High School talked about Genetically Modified Foods; Elizabeth Echeverria and Damon Rooney from Craftsby School spoke about Labor Exploitation; Jessica Predom and Autumn Rozon from the Boys & Girls Club of Vergennes discussed Teen Image issues; Daniel A. May from Rutland High School talked about Student Representation on School Boards; Amy Canton, Shana Griffin, Ashley St. John and Jamie Walbridge from Spaulding High School discussed Graduated License issues; Megan Sullivan, Matt O'Brien, Rebecca Emmons, Alex McKenzie and Carson Gazely from Harwood High School talked about educational funding and Other Peoples Children-National Act 60;

Heidi Neil and Martha Mack from Mt. Abraham High School addressed the issue of Teen Smoking; Keith Blow, Jessica Davis, Jessica Oakes, Shirlaine Miller and Ruhin Yuridulla from Spaulding High School talked about their concern regarding Income Taxes for Student Workers; Chastity Norris and Kim Lunna from Mt. Abraham High School gave their views on the need for a National Civil Unions; Amy Downs and Anissa Coward from YouthBuild Burlington talked about Affordable Childcare; Lindy Stetson from Mt. Abraham High School

talked about Drug Testing for Students; Thomas Lamson, Vanessa Hinton and Monica Brooks from Spaulding High School spoke about the Attack on Individual Rights; Jack Fleisher and Elden Kelly from Mt. Mansfield High School talked about Alternative Energy Vehicles; Jonathan Edmondson from Rice Memorial High School spoke about Arafat: Leader of Freedom Fighters or Terrorist Leader; Tim Fitzgerald from Rice Memorial High School spoke about US Aid to Third World Countries; Elizabeth Christolini from Rice Memorial High School talked about Bettering Education; Rebecca Lee Marquis from Rice Memorial High School talked about a Multi-national Impact; Timothy Plante from Rice Memorial High School addressed the issue of Israel and Palestine: Change of Leadership For Progress; Hailey Davis from Rice Memorial High School discussed Is NATO Necessary?; and Pierson Booher also of Rice Memorial High School discussed the issue of The Arab-Israel Conflict and America's Position.

I am extremely proud of all of the students who attended this Town Meeting. I was deeply impressed by their testimony and applaud their initiative in seeking to make their communities a better place in which to live. Too often, in my view, the media focuses on the problems facing young people. As a nation we do not pay enough attention to the hard and constructive work being done by millions of students and their teachers all across our nation.

Let me conclude by thanking all of the young people and their teachers for their participation.

U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about a little-known but tremendously important part of the Department of Justice: the United States Marshals Service. The Marshals play a critical role in areas we take for granted, such as court security and prisoner transportation. And for that, the Marshals should be applauded.

However, I recently learned of the efforts of an elite part of the Marshals Service—the Special Operations Group (SOG). Lead by Commander Scott Flood and Executive Officer Walter “Keith” Ernie, the Special Operations Group is based in Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. This all-volunteer team of more than 90 professionals is to be commended for their willingness to take on any assignment, no matter how dangerous, in pursuit of Justice and the safety and stability of our country.

Just last weekend, members of the Special Operations Group flew to Puerto Rico to deal

with protesters on Vieques Island, while others came to Virginia to provide special protection for those being prosecuted in America’s war on terrorism. During the September 11th crisis, the Special Operations Group helped secure airports around the country, preserve evidence at the Pentagon and World Trade Center crash sites, and protect federal judges and courthouses from other threats.

While much of this is all in a day’s work, I am amazed that this group of men and women actually volunteer to take on the extra challenges and greater dangers of being a SOG member. Those in the Special Operations Group receive no extra pay. Yet, the training and the missions are incredibly demanding. And the demands are not just on the members themselves, but on their families—being a member of SOG requires extensive travel away from wives, husbands, and children.

Nevertheless, Commander Flood and his team work quietly outside of the spotlight to make sure that the tough jobs get done.

Much of what SOG does cannot be discussed on the floor of the House of Representatives. Nevertheless, I believe that the men and women of the United States Marshals Service’s Special Operations Group are true heroes. And I, for one, am grateful for their service to our Nation.