

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate Older Americans Month by introducing two pieces of legislation to reduce taxes on senior citizens. The first bill, the Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act, repeals the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits. Repealing this increase on Social Security benefits is a good first step toward reducing the burden imposed by the Federal Government on senior citizens. However, imposing any tax on Social Security benefits is unfair and illogical. This is why I am also introducing the Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act, which repeals all taxes on Social Security benefits.

Since Social Security benefits are financed with tax dollars, taxing these benefits is yet another example of "double taxation." Furthermore, "taxing" benefits paid by the government is merely an accounting trick, a "shell game" which allows members of Congress to reduce benefits by subterfuge. This allows Congress to continue using the Social Security trust fund as a means of financing other government programs, and masks the true size of the Federal deficit.

Instead of imposing ridiculous taxes on senior citizens, Congress should ensure the integrity of the Social Security trust fund by ending the practice of using trust fund monies for other programs. In order to accomplish this goal I introduced the Social Security Preservation Act (H.R. 219), which ensures that all money in the Social Security trust fund is spent solely on Social Security. At a time when Congress' inability to control spending is once again threatening the Social Security trust fund, the need for this legislation has never been greater. When the government taxes Americans to fund Social Security, it promises the American people that the money will be there for them when they retire. Congress has a moral obligation to keep that promise.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help free senior citizens from oppressive taxation by supporting my Senior Citizens' Tax Elimination Act and my Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act. I also urge my colleagues to ensure that moneys from the Social Security trust fund are used solely for Social Security benefits and not wasted on frivolous government programs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 174, H.R. 3833, the

Dot Kids Implementation and Efficiency Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea. I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 175, H.R. 1877, the Child Sex Crimes Wiretapping Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 176, H.R. 3375, Embassy Employee Compensation Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 177, H.R. 4626, the Encouraging Work and Supporting Marriage Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 178, H. Con. Res. 405, Commemorating the Independence of East Timor and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should establish diplomatic relations with East Timor. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 179, the Lantos Amendment to H.R. 3994, the Afghanistan Freedoms Support Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 180, the Jackson-Lee Amendment to H.R. 3994, the Afghanistan Freedoms Support Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 181, the Waters Amendment to H.R. 3994, the Afghanistan Freedoms Support Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 182, H.R. 3994, the Afghanistan Freedoms Support Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 183, H.R. 4514, the Veterans' Major Medical Facilities Construction Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 184, H.R. 4015, the Jobs for Veterans Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 185, H.R. 4085, the veterans' and Survivors' Benefits Expansion Act. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 184 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO LUZ DOLLY BENAVIDES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Luz Dolly Benavides, owner of

TransLingual LLC, in the Second Congressional District of West Virginia. Ms. Benavides has achieved the title of Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year. The West Virginia District of the United States Small Business Administration, a leader in the promotion and growth of our state, gives this award annually.

Ms. Benavides began TransLingual LLC in 1994 in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. She offers translation and interpretation services, private tutoring and Spanish courses. To promote a better climate for minority persons to start or operate a business, she volunteers to teach Spanish classes—with information about Hispanic cultures—to the local banks, law enforcement and judicial personnel. Ms. Benavides embodies the values that created the American success story: self-reliance, hard work, perseverance and optimism. I commend her for her contributions to the West Virginia economy.

Successful small businesses not only serve as the backbone of the economy, they anchor communities and promote civic pride. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Benavides' tremendous achievement as the West Virginia Small Business Administration's Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO GROUND ZERO RESCUE, RECOVERY, AND CLEAN-UP WORKERS

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that the resolve of our nation was strengthened by the courage of the thousands of brave rescue and recovery workers who used their own hands to remove rubble from the site in order to locate those trapped and buried beneath the debris of the World Trade Center for the past eight months. These workers also inspired the American people with their extraordinary bravery and heroism, often risking their own life and limb to help find the remains of those who perished on September 11th. Many rescue and recovery workers were not just searching for a stranger but rather their lost son, daughter, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, husband, wife, mother, father, lifelong friend, or co-worker. Additionally, each of these workers was helping to clear the debris just hoping to come across any of their loved ones.

I want to thank Congresswoman MALONEY, Congressman CROWLEY, Congressman KING, Congressman SERRANO, Congressman MEEKS, Congressman OWENS, Congressman SWEENEY, Congressman TOWNS, and Congressman WEINER for cosponsoring and supporting this legislation. I also want to give special thanks to Congresswoman MALONEY for taking the time out of her busy schedule to come to the floor tonight and speak in favor of this resolution.

• 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.