

We have recently come through the longest period of economic expansion in the history of this country. Yet we are here today facing a Republican leadership, which refuses to consider the possibility that we might have to ask the richest part of our society to delay the pay of their tax cut. Last year, my Republican colleagues pushed through tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, tax cuts that eliminated the surplus. They inherited a projected ten-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion, and instead of planning for an emergency, instead of planning for an economic downturn, instead of putting some money aside for the future; they assumed the good times would roll forever. Four trillion of that surplus is already gone. Now we have a national emergency, a war to pay for, and instead of being able to tap into that surplus to pay for the war, we have to go into debt, because the Republican tax cuts have already spent the surplus and have generated deficits for the foreseeable future.

Few of those who made these arguments last year, who said that it was irresponsible to spend down the surplus and leave no room for a national emergency, are surprised to find that we are now here on the floor today, faced with a need to raise the debt limit. And the Republican leadership is not even willing to let us have an honest debate, a straight up-and-down vote, on raising that debt limit.

Last night I heard from the other side of the aisle that if my colleagues and I complained about these kinds of parliamentary games, we were not committed to supporting a strong defense. Mr. Speaker, there is no question here that by our actions since September 11th, every member has shown his and her commitment to this war and to supporting our troops abroad. The question before us today should be whether we respond to this challenge by meeting our fiscal responsibilities and pay for the war, not whether we are going to simply stamp our feet and say "give me my tax cut" and pass the bill to the next generation by raiding their Social Security and giving them a deficit.

I firmly believe in the promise of America. I know that a lot of people on both sides of the aisle do too. I would bet that most Americans would agree that it would be better to freeze nine years of tax cuts to the very rich than to raid Social Security and bring up our kids in a multi-trillion dollars of debt.

Mr. Chairman, at the very least we deserve the right to a full and fair debate of these issues. It is time to end the transactional nature of politics exercised by the Republican leadership, which benefits a small group of very rich people, and instead think about the true and undying promise of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRIG. GEN.
CLAUDE B. DONOVAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to pay tribute to Brig. Gen. Claude B. Donovan. Known as Pat to his friends and family, he has led an incredible life of service to this country. Pat embodies the spirit of my district in Colorado through his perseverance and unfaltering work ethic. I can think of no

better way to thank Pat for the contributions he has made then to acknowledge the accomplishments of this man.

Pat learned the value of hard work early on in his life from his mother. After Pat's father passed away when Pat was ten, his mother taught school to support them both. Pat applied that lesson in his schoolwork and earned his entrance into West Point Military Academy. Later in Pat's military career he would continue his education by attending the Command and General Staff College.

General Donovan proudly served his country in the United States military for nearly 30 years. During his time in the military Pat was posted in Germany, Vietnam, and Korea and served in the 82nd Airborne Division. Pat was also the project manager for the M60 Tank Program and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. He was the commander for the division maintenance battalion in the First Armored Division known as the Big Red One. In addition to his leadership abilities, Pat proved that he also is an educator when he returned to West Point to teach weapons system engineering. His military career was capped off by his service at the Pentagon where he was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Development, Engineering and Acquisition at the United States Army Materiel Command.

In addition to his selfless service to our country Pat has also given his time and energy to his community. After retirement Pat moved to Ouray, Colorado where he served two terms as Mayor. He has dedicated countless hours to the children of the local school as a volunteer. Pat also recognizes the importance of saving our heritage for the next generation and works to preserve our past through his local historical society. Perhaps most importantly Pat has been a loving husband to his wife Betty who supported him throughout his military career. Together Pat and Betty have four children, one of which followed in his father's footsteps and graduated from West Point and is currently serving as a Major in the Army.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Brig. Gen. Claude B. "Pat" Donovan. His devotion to this nation and to his community certainly deserves the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. Pat has gained the respect and admiration of those whose lives he has touched, especially his family. Pat's patriotism and dedication to his community and his family are an example to us all. Thank you Pat for all that you have done for this nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FED UP HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2002

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join several of my colleagues in introducing the FED UP Higher Education Amendments Act of 2002. This legislation is the result of a year-long endeavor to improve the efficiencies and effectiveness of the Title IV student aid programs through the review of overly burdensome and outdated regulations.

Last year, the House Education and the Workforce Committee launched the FED.UP

project (short for "Upping the Effectiveness of our Federal Student Aid Programs) to identify and simplify burdensome regulations in the Higher Education Act of 1965 that work against college students and personnel. The initiative, which was started to bring some sense to the regulations that students and the higher education community must deal with on a daily basis, received over 3,000 responses from college officials, administrators and other personnel who operate America's institutions of higher learning. After all of the responses were catalogued, the Department of Education initiated a negotiated rulemaking process to consider the regulatory changes included in the project.

These proposed amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 continue this effort to identify and simplify burdensome regulations that work against college students and personnel, and are non-controversial and technical in nature. They provide for improvements that will reduce red tape for colleges and universities and will improve the financial aid process for students. Enacting these changes now will allow the House Education and Workforce Committee to address large, more intricate proposals during the reauthorization of the HEA without being bogged down with technical and clerical issues.

This legislation provides for the streamlining and increased effectiveness of many provisions within the HEA. It extends two provisions beneficial to both students and institutions scheduled to expire on September 30, 2002. Currently, schools with default rates under 10 percent for three consecutive fiscal years may waive a 30-day delay requirement for first-year, first-time borrowers. Schools meeting the same low default rate standard may also request one term loans in a single disbursement, rather than the required multiple disbursements. These provisions act as an incentive to schools to keep their default rates low and assist students in getting access to their loan funds on a more timely basis.

A drafting error during the 1998 reauthorization of the HEA inadvertently removed the eligibility of not-for-profit foreign veterinary schools from participation in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. This legislation will correct that error and keep hundreds of students from losing their loan eligibility.

This legislation also provides clarification for financial aid officers in the return of Title IV funds. It clarifies how the return of Title IV funds should be implemented for schools utilizing clock hours, and what percentage of funds need to be included in any return. The language also makes clear that Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership funds may be removed from the return of Title IV funds formula due to the mix of State and Federal funds at the school level. It clarifies that students who have been home schooled, and are treated as such under State law, are eligible for admittance into an institution of higher education as defined in the HEA and are eligible to receive financial aid. It also allows aid professionals to use professional judgment in determining financial need for a student who is declared a ward of the court.

This bill allows for the use of technology wherever possible to enhance and improve communication and the transfer of information. This includes reporting by States in providing information on teacher quality and providing students with voter registration materials.

This legislation allows student loan borrowers to receive more timely assistance from their lenders when they are seeking forbearance of loan payments. It allows a lender to accept a request for assistance over the telephone as long as a confirmation notice of the agreement reached is provided to the borrower and the borrower's file is updated. This eliminates the need for borrowers to sign paper documents requesting help and agreeing in writing to what they already have agreed to verbally. This language also allows a rehabilitation provision within the Perkins Loan Program with the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

The FED UP Technical Amendments Act corrects an administrative issue in the payment of insurance to lenders and reinsurance to guaranty agencies on borrower default claims when the borrower failed to establish eligibility for that loan. This change reinstates long-standing policy of the Department of Education in the payment of these specific claims, which was altered by a new reporting process put in place via a forms change.

This legislation allows Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) to apply for HSI grants without having to wait two years in between applications. It also clarifies allowable uses of grant funds within the Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program. It also provides clarification within the Federal TRIO programs that institutions with more than one campus may apply for separate grants to serve different populations at different campuses.

This legislation also provides clarification as to what items must be included within the annual report of the Department of Education's Performance Based Organization (PBO). Finally, the bill corrects the names of the authorizing committees throughout the HEA and corrects a citation to a section of the law that had been changed several years ago.

The FED UP Higher Education Technical Amendments Act of 2002 will take us one step closer to reducing burdensome rules and allowing financial aid administrators and others in the higher education community to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. Program integrity and service to students remain the priority and this legislation accomplishes both.

FEDUP has accomplished its goal of streamlining the current regulatory system to the extent possible, while maintaining or improving program integrity and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN Z. SHEARER,
ROBERT KOENIG, ALMA COLLINS
AND MARGE ROSSITER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four residents in my district, John Z. Shearer, Robert Koenig, Alma Collins, and Marge Rossiter for each being named a volunteer of the year by four member organizations of the South Central Directors of Volunteers Association. Each of these individuals have given their communities a great service by giving of themselves and their time. Their service is a tremendous gift to the many people they help.

John Z. Shearer was recognized by the Franklin County Volunteer Transportation Network for driving more than 1,000 miles since November and donating 43 hours to provide transportation to people in need of medical services outside Franklin County. In addition to this work, Mr. Shearer also volunteers for the Toy Mission, Kiwanis, Meals on Wheels, and directs/manages the chorus of AARP Fall-ing Spring Chapter 280.

Robert Koenig was recognized by the Franklin County Literacy Council for being a volunteer tutor and assisting with fund-raising and special projects. In addition to his work at the council, Mr. Koenig also volunteers at the Ragged Edge Library and with the Scotland School for Veterans Children football team.

Alma Collins was recognized by the Shook Home and The Quarters At Shook for her positive attitude, reliability, and willingness to help.

Marge Rossiter was recognized by the Volunteer Association of South Mountain Restoration Center for being a volunteer since 1977, serving her third term as president of the association and serving as chairperson for another of the association's volunteer groups, International Party Givers.

The services these volunteers provide do not come with a price, but the dividends of their work are precious and valuable. They have given their time unselfishly and have asked for nothing in return. Through their example we learn that a smile, a thank you, or just the knowledge that you have done a good deed can provide a personal reward that fills the corners of your heart in ways that a paycheck will never be big enough to do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all volunteers for their noble work and congratulating John Z. Shearer, Robert Koenig, Alma Collins, and Marge Rossiter for receiving the recognition of volunteer of the year. I would also like to put forth a challenge to young people, in my district as well as other parts of the country, to follow in the footsteps of these individuals. President George W. Bush, in his last State of the Union Address, challenged all of us to give two years or 4,000 hours of service over our lifetimes. If the President were here today I am positive he would shake these four volunteers' hands and hold them up as examples for others to follow. Our communities are in need of volunteers, people that are willing to provide a helping hand and give from their hearts. This country has a generous spirit of goodwill and kindness, I urge others to use this as their motivation to become as involved in bettering their communities as the four volunteers we have recognized today.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REAUTHORIZA- TION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the primary function of the National Transportation Safety Board primary function is to promote safety in transportation. The Board is responsible for the investigation, determination

of facts, conditions, and circumstances and the cause or probable cause or causes of. The Board makes transportation safety recommendations to Federal, State, and local agencies and private organizations to reduce the likelihood of recurrences of transportation accidents. The Board issues reports and orders pursuant to its duties to determine the cause of transportation accidents and to report the facts, conditions and circumstances relating to such accidents.

Since its last reauthorization in 2000, the Board has investigated over 6,500 accidents. The NTSB has issued over 650 safety recommendations. To maintain its position as the world's preeminent investigative agency, the NTSB must have the resources necessary to handle the increasingly complex accident investigations. The NTSB has recently broken ground for its new training academy that will teach state of the art investigative techniques for transportation accidents.

Although it has no regulatory or enforcement powers, its reputation for impartiality and thoroughness has enabled the NTSB to achieve such success in shaping transportation safety improvements that more than 80 percent of its recommendations have been adopted by those in a position to effect change.

Many safety features currently incorporated into airplanes, automobiles, trains, pipelines and marine vessels had their genesis in NTSB recommendations. At an annual cost of less than 23 cents a citizen, the NTSB is one of the best bargains in the government.

H.R. 4466, National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act authorizes increased funding over the next three years: \$73 million in FY 2003; \$85 million in FY 2004; and \$89.7 million in FY 2005. The bill also authorizes approximately \$4 million per year for the training academy. This funding is critical to ensure that the Agency has the necessary resources to hire additional technical experts as well as to provide better training for its current workforce.

H.R. 4466 also addresses another matter of great importance; that is, the DOT's notoriously slow response to NTSB's safety recommendations. The bill requires an annual report from DOT on the regulatory status of all significant safety recommendations (i.e., those on NTSB's "most wanted list") received from the NTSB. This will enable the Committee to keep tabs on the progress of these very important recommendations.

One of the NTSB's core functions is to assist families of passengers that have been in an aviation accident. H.R. 4466 also extends the NTSB's family assistance responsibility to families of victims of rail accidents. In addition, Congress, in 2000, authorized the transfer of investigative priority from the NTSB to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the event of an accident caused by an intentional criminal act. H.R. 4466 provides for the transfer of the family affairs responsibility to the FBI from the NTSB when investigative authority has been relinquished in both aviation and rail accidents.

Having a well funded, well-trained NTSB workforce is of the utmost importance for the American traveling public. Accordingly, I urge my fellow members to strongly support the bill.