

President Reagan recognized that there were janitors who were literally paying more in taxes than the profitable corporations that they worked for. So the Alternative Minimum Tax was imposed, and it has been in place since 1986. But in this Chamber, just a few days ago, we voted to eliminate that tax and to refund the money that had been paid by these profitable corporations since 1986, what is estimated to be approximately \$24 billion that would be given back, with no strings attached. We are doing that at the same time we are putting burdens on the backs of our veterans.

What we have done, basically, is to require veterans to pay more for their health care at the same time we are giving huge tax breaks and tax give-backs to profitable corporations. It is unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 2820, a bill that would simply return the copay to \$2, at a level it has been for quite some time, and it would freeze it at the \$2 level for the next 5 years. It seems to me that this is the least we can do for these men and women who have served our country.

Now, I believe this is something that this House will be willing to do, and I am calling upon my colleagues of both political parties to sign on to this legislation. Thus far, I have acquired about 70 cosponsors, Republicans and Democrats alike.

I would like to point out that the co-introducer of this legislation with me is a Republican, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY). The gentleman from Ohio and I are hopeful that all of our colleagues in this House will join us in the effort to reduce this burden upon our veterans, and we will be grateful if they do, and I am sure the veterans in this country will be grateful as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORY OF STATE SENATOR CLIVE L. DUVAL II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of Virginia's finest and most respected public figures. Clive L. DuVal II passed away on Monday, February 25. But his legacy of leadership on the environment, on consumer rights, on civil rights, and good government will leave a lasting impression on the Commonwealth of Virginia for decades to come.

Born in New York City, Senator DuVal came to embody the definition of a Virginia gentleman, serving in the

House of Delegates for 6 years and as a State Senator from 1972 until his retirement in 1992. Educated at Yale where he received his law degree, Senator DuVal went on to serve as a lieutenant commander in the Navy's 16th Air Group during World War II. After the war, he served at the Department of Defense as a lawyer, later becoming general counsel for the U.S. Information Agency in 1955.

Senator DuVal got his political start standing up against the controversial land use dispute over the Merrywood estate in McLean, Virginia. Citing illegal zoning practices, Senator DuVal helped persuade the U.S. Interior Department to join the effort, and it led to the successful prevention of high-rise developments along the Potomac River.

These concerns for the environment continued throughout Senator DuVal's legislative career. Known as a stalwart defender of the little guy, Senator DuVal rose to become the head of the Northern Virginia delegation. He eventually assumed the chairmanship of the Democratic Caucus and successfully used that position in fighting for progressive priorities. During all the budget agreements, as they would be worked out behind closed doors, we knew he was there fighting for the right priorities.

Senator DuVal left an indelible mark on everyone with whom he served. His courageous stands on civil rights and on women's rights made a great difference in Virginia's social progress. He was always admired by his colleagues for his velvet glove approach to the toughest of legislative battles, a good personal friend and an inspiration to so many of us looking for examples of successful progressive leadership in Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I stand today in salute of Senator DuVal's life's work. He was a role model for us all and a great American, and we will miss him dearly.

LAND LOSS SUFFERED BY AFRICAN AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I am pleased to come to the House floor to speak in honor of Black history month. In 1926, Carter G. Woodson started Black history week to bring national attention to the contributions of Black people to this nation. Since 1976, Americans annually recognize February as Black history month. This year's theme, "[t]he Color Line Revisited, Is Racism Dead?," reminds us as a nation to examine our haunted past, while affording us an opportunity to appreciate how African-Americans have been instrumental in shaping the spirit of our nation, despite the barriers imposed by racism. As I take this opportunity to recognize the triumphs of African-Americans, I would be remiss if I did

not recognize the losses we have suffered. I would like to recount one particularly painful loss endured by African-Americans, that of land loss. Madam Speaker, on January 12, 1865, General William T. Sherman met with 20 black community leaders of Savannah, Georgia. The following day, General Sherman issued Special Field Order Number 15 which set aside the Sea Islands off the Georgia coast and a 30-mile tract of land along the southern coast of South Carolina for the exclusive settlement of black families. This land, along with other confiscated and abandoned land, fell under the jurisdiction of the Freedmen's Bureau, a government entity created to assist former slaves. Each family was to receive 40 acres of land and an Army mule to work the land, thus the origin of "40 acres and a mule."

The Freedmen's Bureau lent a helping hand to former slaves in their newfound freedom by assisting them in taking advantage of the government's promise of land and a chance at prosperity. Unfortunately, the government never lived up to its promise of 40 acres and a mule. During the fall of 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued special pardons which returned the confiscated property of many ex-Confederates. The Freedmen's Bureau was stripped of most of its power, and much of the land that had been leased to black farmers was taken and returned to the Confederates.

Nevertheless, despite the absence of government assistance, many African-Americans on their own managed to purchase land. Despite the failure of our Federal Government to make good on a promise of assistance and despite open hostility and racial discrimination, between the end of the Civil War and 1910, African American families in the South amassed a land base of over 15 million acres.

□ 1730

This was by no means an easily accomplished feat. Many sacrifices were made, and much hard work went into the efforts of African Americans to fulfill the American dream and own their own land. By 1920, there were 925,000 African American farmers. In 1999, the figures had dropped to less than 17,000 African American farmers with less than 3 million acres of land.

Fast forward to the year 2002, and many of us in the African American community look back on a promise made to us in 1865 that was never realized. We have to acknowledge the fact that not only did the government fail black farmers and landowners in 1865, it seems that the government has played an active role in depriving African Americans of property acquired through their own hard work and sacrifices. In some cases, the government approved taking lands from African Americans; in others, it actually participated.

How many cases have we heard where African Americans, through intimidation, trickery, fraud, and outright violence, have been driven from their land or lost family homesteads? In spite of bitter struggles to hold onto their land, many African Americans have lost land involuntarily and have received no remedy to correct these injustices.

We as a people recognize land ownership is an integral source of power. Cases of government-condoned land-taking are viewed by the black community as a campaign to deprive African Americans of our ownership rights as American citizens. For African Americans who have struggled to overcome the legacy of slavery, the loss of lands is particularly devastating. Land ownership is viewed as a source of economic security and prosperity. Since the mid-1800s when black Americans were first promised the opportunity to own land, we have sought to gain economic freedom, prosperity, and respect through our land and pass that legacy on to future generations.

In spite of the fact that our government has failed us and reneged on a promise of yesterday, we have shown that we have the drive and the determination to overcome adversity in our quest to share the prosperity to which we are entitled.

This does not mean, however, that we will accept the discrimination practices and government-sanctioned schemes that served to rob African American landowners of property that they have literally in some cases shed blood, sweat, and tears to attain and maintain.

As policymakers, we have an obligation to respond to the critical issue of land loss in the African American community. The link that has been established between land ownership, community, and democratic participation makes it critical that we are committed in our efforts to help black landowners hold onto their land. We must preserve a legacy that is worthy of passing on to future generations.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S DOMESTIC STEEL INDUSTRY AND THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS PROGRAM ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am going to split my remarks between two areas that will be addressed in the House later this evening.

First of all, I rise in support of our domestic steel industry. Thousands of American steel workers have lost their jobs due to massive levels of low-priced steel imports. In my own district, the 11th district of Ohio, 3,200 LTV steelworkers may lose their jobs while 22,000 steelworkers and vendors in the region have been affected as a result of these imports.

I stand here today to urge the President to take decisive action against the cheap imports that are destroying the U.S. steel industry. This is an industry that has been a cornerstone of our economy and national security over the last 100 years.

The ITC found unanimously that American steel companies and thousands of workers and their communities have been seriously injured by these imports. I say and know firsthand that they have been devastated. The ball is now in the President's hands. He must decide what measures his administration will take to correct the wrong that has been caused by low-priced imports.

I urge the President in the strongest possible terms to impose strong and effective tariff-based relief. The President must impose a tariff of at least 40 percent against all foreign low-priced steel imports. I urge the President to impose such a tariff for a period of at least 4 years, as the law allows.

I also urge the President not to waiver from his commitment to the American steel industry and its workers because strong tariff-based relief is the only remedy that can realistically assist this industry in our United States.

Secondly, I rise in support of the Congressional Black Caucus Black History Month Special Order. Our theme tonight is "The Color Line Revisited: Is racism dead?" We have come together to salute the great history of African Americans in America. I would like to address that African American history and its origins and what it means to our great Nation today.

Let us take a moment to reflect on a time in our history when African Americans were so dehumanized and their history so distorted that slavery, segregation, and lynching were not punishable by law. It was a time when people were being mistreated because of the color of their skin, and as a result, many people began to stand against these terrible acts.

This stand against injustice by many eventually brought about a massive change that divided our Nation and sparked the Civil War. After the war, America stood true to its union as one Nation, under God. The spirit of African Americans was strong and unwavering during such difficult times, which makes the history of African Americans so great.

It is important to reflect upon this time in our history so that what happened to innocent people never happens again. It is largely for these reasons that I am working to make a difference in the life of every American. I believe that we must pick up where African American heroes left off. We must not only know our history but honor it, so that slavery, segregation, and inhumane acts never happen again.

We must be united for access to quality public schools for our Nation's youth, we must be united for access to affordable health care, and we must not rest until our Nation unites and

what will be done for African Americans in terms of reparations.

Right now, inner-city schools, which are overwhelmingly populated by African American children, are failing standardized tests at disproportionate rates. Right now, African American families lack access to quality health care at disproportionate rates. Right now, in the slowing economy, African Americans are losing their jobs at double the rate of white Americans. Right now, African Americans are victims of predatory lending by unscrupulous companies that are stripping our community of her wealth. Right now, the American people have a duty to their fellow countrymen and women to not only apologize for the inhumane acts, but also to supplement it with economic justice.

With all of our efforts, I am sure that we will continue to celebrate freedom and justice for all for many, many years to come.

In closing, racism is not dead; but we are one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. I am proud to be an American, and I am more proud that I am an African American. I salute those African Americans who believed in the fight for justice, believed in their dreams for equality, and paved a path for a brighter tomorrow.

We must stand up and continue to fight to be assured that racism does die. But right now, it is not dead.

CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA'S DESTRUCTION OF TWO UNARMED U.S.-REGISTERED CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-182)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, which states that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2002.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 26, 2002.