

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NORA ANZIK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding volunteer and community member from my district. Nora Anzik is the recipient of this year's Volunteer of the Year Award given by TREC, the Therapeutic Riding and Education Center of Pueblo, Colorado. Nora's hard work helps children with disabilities experience the joy of riding horses, something they could not accomplish without her.

Nora's enthusiasm, patience, and effectiveness became obvious in her first week at TREC. She began her work with a young autistic boy named Steven. Steven was not comfortable with some of the aspects of riding, and it was Susan's persuasive, positive attitude that helped him to adjust. Her work with Steven is just one example of the compassion she has for those in need. Nora continues to work with Steven and numerous other children, becoming a role model in many of their lives. She is a wonderful teacher, who knows how to get through to children with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, great Americans like Nora, who volunteer their time, have helped to make our country great. I am proud of her accomplishments and it gives me great joy to inform this body of Congress and this nation of her outstanding community service. Thank you, Nora, for your hard work and dedication. Your commitment and involvement in the Pueblo community will not be forgotten.

POLITICAL TENSIONS IN BURMA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I risk today to express my deepest concerns about the ongoing political problems in Burma and the recent arrest of opposition leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi. I am deeply troubled by the military regime's stifling of political life. This equals a brutal, unacceptable situation lacking democratic essentials. Obviously, the military junta tries to block and prevent democratic change for which nobel peace prize laureate Suu Kyi's life and work stand for.

With the detention of Suu Kyi and nineteen members of her National League for Democracy party last Friday, the political tensions are on the rise again. The NLD headquarters and universities were also closed. It is common practice for the junta to crash NLD meetings by sending bullies to intimidate pro-democracy advocates. Only last year Suu Kyi was released from custody while at the same time the junta arrested many NLD party members. The military regime allowed her to travel freely throughout the country and organize her party but during her last two trips she met harassment and obstruction. This clearly indicates that hope for democratic reform, which was stirred by Suu Kyi's release, has suffered a major setback. The illegitimate government

further promised to engage in a dialogue with the NLD, supervised by the United Nations. Sadly, the talks failed to make significant progress.

Deficits are not only visible in the political arena but also in the social and economic field. Long-term economic mismanagement under authoritarian rule created severe economic and social ills. Due to the government's human rights' abuses and the unfriendly business environment, international companies have left the country. Inflation is rampant, probably as high as fifty percent. The social sector is in dire straits with every third child suffering from malnutrition. Yet 40 percent of the budget is spent for defense.

The problems in Burma are grave and wide-reaching. There's a democratic movement that deserves and needs our support, there's a military regime that needs to realize that its only way out of Burma's crisis is to fully respect democracy and human rights. This regime must accept the results of the 1990 election which were won by Aung Sang Suu Kyi. To achieve these goals, I have cosponsored the "Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003," which—amongst other provisions—prohibits imports from Burma in order to press the regime to adapt full-fledged democratic reforms and supports democracy activists within Burma.

A BILL TO RESTORE EQUITY IN THE TAXATION OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will restore equity in the taxation of political campaign committees.

Currently, the tax code treats income in federal political campaign committees the same as corporate income. This allows candidates for congressional office to pay campaign taxes on a graduated rate scale, offering us significant tax benefits.

Specifically, we pay a 15 percent tax rate on the first \$50,000 of income in our campaign accounts. Income in our accounts between \$50,001 and \$75,000 is taxed at 25 percent, and income between \$75,001 and \$10 million is taxed at 34 percent. Only when our campaign accounts boast over \$10 million are we subjected to a 35 percent tax rate.

Mr. Speaker, each of us in this chamber can attest to the ridiculously high amount of money that we must raise in order to run a formidable campaign for Congress. However, I doubt that many of us actually reach that \$10 million threshold and pay a 35 percent tax rate on the money in our campaign accounts.

Unfortunately, our colleagues in state legislatures across the country aren't as fortunate. As Texas State Senator Jon Lindsay pointed out to us in the Texas Delegation, every dollar in his campaign account is taxed at a flat 35 percent rate. In fact, only candidates for Congress are able to enjoy this graduated tax schedule.

To correct this inequity in our tax code, I am introducing legislation today to amend the Internal Revenue Code and mandate that state

political campaign committees are taxed in the same manner as our federal campaign committees.

Joining me in this effort to ensure that the tax code treats our state legislators fairly is the entire Democratic wing of the Texas delegation: Representative CHRIS BELL, Representative LLOYD DOGGETT, Representative CHET EDWARDS, Representative MARTIN FROST, Representative CHARLES GONZALEZ, Representative RALPH HALL, Representative RUBEN HINOJOSA, Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Representative NICK LAMPSON, Representative SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, Representative SILVESTRE REYES, Representative CIRO RODRIGUEZ, Representative MAX SANDLIN, Representative CHARLES STENHOLM, and Representative JIM TURNER.

My thanks goes out to each of them for their support, as well as to Senator Lindsay for bringing this matter to our attention. I urge my fellow colleagues to co-sponsor this bill and show their support for the state legislators who work hard representing them back home.

RECOGNITION OF BRADEN CHRISTIAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Braden Christian of Harrisburg, Illinois in honor of his participation in the 76th annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee.

Braden was the winner of the Tri-State Spelling Bee held at Bosse High School in Evansville, Illinois on March 15 earlier this year. His win secured him an invitation to the National Spelling Bee.

Today, I would like to congratulate Braden on his victory and wish him luck in the National Competition.

The Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee is held annually and features 251 students from grades five through eight from all over the country. Students are quizzed on a large selection of words from the Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary. I would like to commend Braden for his hard work and dedication to pursuing his goal of winning the National Title.

In closing, I would like to praise Braden for all of his achievements and also thank his parents and teachers who have nurtured and inspired Braden's desire for excellence and love of knowledge. He is a truly wonderful young man and I look forward to hearing of his future accomplishments. God Bless.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYNN WELDON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a longtime servant of Alamosa, Colorado, Lynn Weldon. Lynn has served the Alamosa City Council diligently for almost twenty years. In recognition

of his service, I would like to recognize his dedication and a few of his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

People in Alamosa have long felt deep respect for Lynn's patience, his integrity, and his dedication. People have referred to Lynn, who served as a chaplain's assistant during the Korean War, as a source of tranquility in the face of battle. Lynn has proved this countless times during many years of public service, where he has calmly listened to others, and stood his ground resolutely on issues of principle, no matter how heated the debates before him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Lynn's long service to Alamosa before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to join the rest of Alamosa in expressing my gratitude to Lynn for his dedication to his community. Lynn, our thoughts and our prayers are with you.

IN TRIBUTE TO MICHELE MILLER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who believes that public education is the foundation of a prosperous and democratic society. Michele Miller always wanted to be a teacher. As a student at Spring Valley Senior High School, Michele was a member of Future Teachers of America. Graduating from the State University of New York at Albany, she attended Hunter College for a masters degree in education with a concentration in social studies.

A lifelong New Yorker, Michele has spent her entire career teaching the students of Pearl River, New York. She has spent 33 years teaching social studies at the Pearl River School District's Middle School and High School. Michele began as a student teacher in Pearl River when Lyndon Johnson was the President of the United States in the fall of 1968. She will end her career this month, eight Presidents later and after providing thousands of her students with the knowledge and appreciation of the democratic values that underpin our great country.

Michele is the epitome of a great teacher. Although she's known throughout Pearl River as one of the toughest teachers around, she's also known for being caring, compassionate, and funny. She thrives on being in the classroom, the students have always kept her youthful in both appearance and in personality. Moreover, she constantly learns from her students and hopes that they leave the classroom every day knowing a bit more about the world.

I hope that new teachers are inspired by Michele's dedication to teaching. She will be sorely missed by the Pearl River School District.

I would like to join the Pearl River community, her family and friends in thanking Michele for her years of service and wishing her congratulations on the occasion of her retirement.

HONORING BOB SCHROEDER

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bob Schroeder upon being named the Town of Hooksett's Citizen of the Year.

Bob was instrumental in the restoration and revitalization of a truly historic local, state and national landmark. Robie's Country Store in Hooksett has a lengthy history of acting as the town's gathering spot, a place to argue politics, play checkers and buy groceries and homemade baked goods. Robie's was also a required stop for local politicians and presidential candidates visiting the first-in-the-nation primary state for over 30 years. The store closed in 1997 after the store's owners, Lloyd and Dorothy Robie, retired. After five years of dormancy and a lack of funds and dedicated owners, Robie's Country Store reopened, continuing its 30-year political tradition and its 110-year presence in the town.

Bob saw an imperative need to preserve this cultural and political landmark and formed the Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Association to spearhead the renovation effort. The Association has worked diligently to bring the store to life again, and on May 24, 2003, Robie's Country Store reopened to an eager and proud community. Bob and the Preservation Association were careful to maintain Robie's historical accuracy by keeping the 97-year old building's original flooring, ceiling and picture wall of political memorabilia. Always humble, Bob refuses to take the credit for the grand reopening of the store, instead pointing the spotlight on the efforts of the entire community. Under Bob's leadership, people of all ages worked together to restore Robie's through fundraising and renovation efforts. The community's hard work will undoubtedly ensure that the rich heritage and traditions of the store will remain in tact for future generations to enjoy.

Bob's tireless commitment to preserving this landmark and energizing the whole community to get involved is a wonderful example of his perseverance and dedication to improving the community and state in which he lives. I can think of no better person than Bob to receive the Hooksett Citizen of the Year Award. I am honored to represent concerned and conscientious citizens like Bob in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 760 and for our voiceless unborn children, who were merely inches away from their first breath, when their life was brutally ended. For them, partial-birth abortion is not an option—it is a death sentence.

It is truly shameful that we cannot protect the most innocent and vulnerable in our society from this gruesome medical procedure. Delivering a child up to its head and then using a syringe to suck out the child's brain and discard this miracle of life is revolting.

Do not call that child a fetus. Do not elevate any personal freedom above that child's right to life. That fetus is a human baby—call it what it is.

I hope the mental image this conjures disturbs everyone—and that I once again receive calls from those shaken by the mere description of this barbaric act. Be thankful you're not on the business end of that syringe.

We have the responsibility to do everything in our power to put an end to this practice which has no place in a civilized society. We cannot remain silent while a procedure such as partial-birth remains an acceptable part of our society—after all, if done a short time later and a few inches further, it would be considered murder.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE VAIL HOTEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a long-time landmark of Pueblo, Colorado, the Vail Hotel. Opened in 1911, the Vail Hotel was once known as the most luxurious hotel west of Chicago. Its many custom windows, door-knobs, and its tasteful use of wood and stone, truly make the Vail Hotel an architectural wonder. Over the years, the hotel's beauty attracted President Woodrow Wilson, Clark Gable, Tallulah Bankhead, Jack Benny and generations of Puebloans to its gracious halls.

However, without the love of the people of Pueblo, even this great treasure would not be as marvelous as it is today. I am impressed by the numerous craftsmen who labored to restore this magnificent building, from Kathleen Sheard-Hodges, who painstakingly restored many of the jeweled windows and recreated missing ones, to Bill Agnes, who salvaged tiles to restore and extend the lobby's gorgeous mosaic floor. Also among those deserving of praise is Gary Trujillo, the lead architect for the renovation, who restored the building with painstaking attention to its historic past and for its remarkable beauty.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to mention one of this country's magnificent historic landmarks. The Vail Hotel serves as an example of the pride and hard work that the citizens of Pueblo have dedicated in making their home a more beautiful place. Built by Puebloans, restored by Puebloans, and beloved by all, it gives me great pride to recognize today this historic building, as well as the efforts made to restore it. Its beauty and history enrich the Pueblo community and will be cherished for generations to come.