

this amendment to be ratified by the states. We have to set our goal NOW to balance the budget again. Unless we commit to it, we'll never get the budget balanced again. First we must set the goal, then we work toward it.

Our children and our grandchildren will pay a heavy price if we do not return to a balanced budget. They not only would face the high taxes of big government, but they would bear the extra expense of paying off the bills that we are running-up today.

This Balanced Budget Amendment is identical to the language passed by a vote of 300–132 in 1995, as part of the original “Contract With America,” and then failed by one single vote in the U.S. Senate in 1997. Neither the House nor the Senate have voted on it since then. Obviously, we now have many new faces in Congress; we now have 212 House Members who have never been held accountable, because they have never had to vote on a Balanced Budget Amendment. We believe the time has come for every Member of Congress to address this issue head-on.

The amendment includes an exemption for times when Congress declares a national emergency. But during peacetime, it would require a supermajority of Congress for the federal government to operate at a deficit.

No ordinary law can restrain Congress, because Congress has the power to remove that safeguard whenever it wishes by a simple majority vote. The only real protection against deficit spending is constitutional protection. In light of the current national emergency, we need this amendment more than ever to ensure that deficit spending will end.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL “TO PROVIDE FOR AND APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN LAND CLAIMS OF THE BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY”

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 2003*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, for more than 100 years, the Bay Mills Indian Community has sought justice for the illegal sale of over 110 acres of Chippewa County lands which, prior to the sale, had been homeland to a large group of the Tribe's ancestors. Today I am introducing legislation that finally brings relief to this group of Michigan's Native people.

The legislation I propose today also brings too-long awaited relief to the non-Indian citizens of Michigan who live within the Tribe's Chippewa county claim area. Because the Indian claim has remained unresolved for many years, innocent homeowners have watched their property values plummet to 90 percent below what that property would otherwise be worth on the open market. This legislation accomplishes these ends by ratifying the Land Settlement Agreement signed by the Bay Mills Indian Community and the State of Michigan on August 23, 2002.

This Land Settlement Agreement is the product of a long and careful negotiation process between the Tribe and the State. It calls for the extinguishment of all of the Tribe's title and right to the Chippewa County disputed lands and in return provides for the Tribe to

receive replacement land in Port Huron that will be put into trust (and therefore protected by federal law from illegal sale) by the Secretary of the Interior. Further, the settlement is structured in such a way as to ensure that neither the taxpayers of Michigan nor the taxpayers of the United States will ever be saddled with the cost of paying a monetary damage award, which otherwise could be quite substantial, to the Tribe.

Finally, and of particular importance to my constituents in the 10th District, the settlement agreement will enable the City of Port Huron and the Tribe to engage in desperately needed and mutually beneficial economic development, of a casino. The people of Port Huron approved a June 2001 casino advisory referendum. This legislation is critical in allowing the residents of the Port Huron community to actively participate in its economic recovery through the establishment of a casino approved by the people. The Port Huron community has been brutalized by the loss of thousands of manufacturing jobs, a double-digit unemployment rate that doubles our state and federal average and a Canadian casino located just 500 yards from our border. That casino attracts more than 1 million American visitors per year, which is devastating to our tourism and entertainment business. A casino on the American side of the border would create 3,000 American jobs while providing competition to our Canadian neighbors at the only border crossing with Ontario where we have not responded by having a casino of our own.

Resolution of this land claim is long overdue. In sponsoring this legislation, I am proud to be part of a solution crafted to benefit the Tribe, residents of the claim area, and the taxpayers of Michigan.

I join with the members of the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Charlotte Beach landowners, my constituents in Port Huron, and my distinguished colleague Congressman DON YOUNG in support of this proposed settlement. This legislation provides a fair solution that is long overdue for many Native Americans.

COMMENDING FACULTY AND STAFF OF EDWARD J. BRISCOE AND VAN ZANT—GUINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**HON. MARTIN FROST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 2003*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the faculty and staff of Edward J. Briscoe and Van Zant-Guinn Elementary Schools. The principals of these two schools, Dr. Jennifer Brooks and Mrs. Constance Goines, respectively, are to be commended for the work they have done to improve the educational opportunities for young people in their communities. Both schools received the Title I, Part A Distinguished Performance Award. The Title I Award is given to a select number of schools around the country that exhibit outstanding performance in the areas of academic performance and achievement.

At Briscoe Elementary, Dr. Brooks has been honored on numerous occasions for the work she has done to help broaden the horizons for the children that attend her school. Her dedication to improving the basic skills of school

age children helped secure a 5-Star Rating from Texas Monthly Magazine—the highest rating the statewide magazine gives to public schools. Most recently Briscoe received a TEA (Texas Education Agency) Exemplary Rating. The school also takes part in the prestigious Bass Performance Hall Program and encourages conversational Spanish with specially designed curriculum.

A few miles away to the north, children, parents, and the faculty of Van-Zant Guinn Elementary were also joyous in hearing the news that they too would be receiving a Title I Award. Their principal for the last nine years, Constance Goines, also deserves praise for the steps she has taken to make her school a success in the field of education. Van Zant-Guinn was also recognized by the TEA in 2002 as Exemplary and was given the agency's “2002 Gold Performance Award” for the progress that students made in Math and Reading. Mrs. Goines and her staff were also instrumental in initiating a program on campus called Homework Helper. Homework Helper provides kids who lack the ideal environment at home a more suitable place after school to do their homework.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the Title I, Part A Distinguished Performance Award will continue to help improve the lives of school children, not only in Fort Worth, but throughout the country. Once again, I congratulate Dr. Jennifer Brooks and Constance Goines for all they do in regards to the schools they represent, our country and their receiving this award.

INTRODUCING MELANIE BLOCKER-STOKES POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION RESEARCH AND CARE ACT

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 2003*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Melanie Blocker-Stokes and all women who have suffered in silence from postpartum depression and psychosis. I am pleased that 47 of my colleagues have joined me in introducing the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act.

Chicago native, Melanie Blocker-Stokes was a successful pharmaceutical sales manager and loving wife of Dr. Sam Stokes. However, for Melanie, no title was more important than that of mother. Melanie believed motherhood was her life mission and fiercely wanted a daughter of her own. This dream came true on February 23, 2001 with the birth of her daughter, Sommer Skyy. Unfortunately, with the birth of her daughter, Melanie entered into a battle for her life with a devastating mood disorder known as postpartum psychosis. Despite a valiant fight against postpartum psychosis, which included being hospitalized a total of three times, Melanie jumped to her death from a 12-story window ledge on June 11, 2001.

Melanie was not alone in her pain and depression. Each year over 400,000 women suffer from postpartum mood changes. Nearly 80 percent of new mothers experience a common form of depression after delivery, known as “baby blues.” The temporary symptoms of “baby blues” include mood swings, feelings of

being overwhelmed, tearfulness, and irritability, poor sleep and a sense of vulnerability. However, a more prolonged and pronounced mood disorder known as postpartum depression affects 10 to 20 percent of women during or after giving birth. Even more extreme and rare, postpartum psychosis, whose symptoms include hallucinations, hearing voices, paranoia, severe insomnia, extreme anxiety and depression, strikes 1 in 1,000 new mothers.

Postpartum depression and psychosis afflicts new mothers indiscriminately. Many of its victims are unaware of their condition. This phenomena is due to the inability of many women to self-diagnose their condition and society's general lack of knowledge about postpartum depression and psychosis and the stigma surrounding depression and mental illness. Untreated, postpartum depression can lead to self-destructive behavior and even suicide, as was the case with Mrs. Blocker-Stokes. This was also evident in the case of Andrea Yates of Houston, Texas who drowned her five children.

This is why it is important for us to treat this silent disease which can have a dire impact on ones family and society in general. The challenge that we have as a Member of Congress is to bring awareness to all Americans, particularly families who have women who will give birth soon, or have given birth recently. This is a preventable disorder.

In remembrance of Melanie Blocker-Stokes and all the women who have suffered from postpartum depression and psychosis, as well as their families and friend who have stood by their side, I am introducing the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act which will:

Expand and intensify research at the National Institute of Health and National Institute of Mental Health with respect to postpartum depression and psychosis, including increased discovery of treatments, diagnostic tools and educational materials for providers;

Provide grants for the delivery of essential services to individuals with postpartum depression and psychosis and their families, including enhanced outpatient and home-based health care, inpatient care and support services.

It is my hope that through this legislation we can ensure that the birth of a child is a joyous occasion time for the new mother and family, and not a time of mourning over the loss of yet another mother and child.

#### COMMEMORATING RETIREMENT OF GARY GRZANICH

### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the retirement of one of Central Illinois' most dedicated public servants. For the past 28 years, my friend Gary Grzanich has served as the Fulton County Regional Superintendent of Schools in Lewistown, Illinois. An innovative administrator, Mr. Grzanich worked tirelessly to ensure his students an exceptional learning environment and unequalled educational opportunities both in school and in extracurricular activities.

A Fulton County native, Mr. Grzanich graduated from Canton High School and received both his Bachelor's Degree and Educational Specialist Degree from Western Illinois University. He later attended Bradley University in Peoria, where he was awarded a Master's Degree. A teacher and coach for 11 years, Mr. Grzanich went on to work for the Illinois State Board of Education before running for Fulton County Regional Superintendent of Schools in 1974. Aided by hand-painted signs, he won the post and held it despite periodic electoral opposition until November 2002.

Gary Grzanich's 28 years of service yielded a vast array of accomplishments benefitting both his students and the wider Illinois educational community. The Chairman of the Mid-Illini Educational Cooperative, he was also a member of the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (IASCD) and the Superintendents' Round Tables at both Bradley University and Western Illinois University. He established a Cooperative Testing Program in Fulton County schools, initiated the GED Testing Program in Fulton County, introduced Madeline Hunter's "Science of Teaching" theories to Fulton County teachers, and launched an Institute Day for his schools' gifted students. Mr. Grzanich worked to promote the fine arts through comprehensive arts grants, brought the substance abuse DARE program to Fulton County students, and initiated a county-wide policy on AIDS. In addition to these achievements, he also held posts in the Regional Superintendents' Association and the Illinois Association of School Administrators, and is a past member of the State Certification Board and the Blue Ribbon Committee for Teacher Preparation and Training.

A lifelong Democrat, Mr. Grzanich is married to Dian and has two children, Susan and Jon. Fittingly, both his daughter and son grew up to become teachers in Central Illinois. He still lives in Canton, and will most likely keep himself busy hunting and fishing during retirement.

On behalf of Fulton County and the rest of the 17th District, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Gary Grzanich for his many years of service to the youth of Illinois. His hard work and unflinching leadership will be sorely missed.

#### EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"—HOUSE RESOLUTION 51

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 51, a resolution expressing condolences to the families of the crew of the space shuttle *Columbia*. Together, our nation, the people of Israel and the entire world grieve the loss of these seven heroes and remember their extraordinary lives.

In the days following this terrible tragedy, millions of Americans have struggled to cope with the loss of these astronauts. We have worried about the ramifications of this accident for the future of our space program. But this past Tuesday, I was reminded by the students

of the Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary School in Saint Paul, Minnesota that this tragedy can not diminish our hopes or dampen our desire to go after our dreams.

In a touching memorial service, the Farnsworth students recalled the history of the space program and told the stories of the seven astronauts that they regarded as their heroes. Even as they expressed their sadness about the loss of these astronauts, the students shared their undeterred dreams to travel to space some day.

Like the *Columbia* astronauts, the students of Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary School have always understood that travel into space is remarkable, but never routine, ordinary or without risk. While men and women across America mourn this tragic event, we must remember that our nation will overcome this tragedy and once again allow mankind to venture into space.

The students of Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary School serve as an inspiration to us all. As they keep reaching for the stars, I will hold onto hope that some day, they will make it there.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT ACCESS TO PHYSICAL THERA- PISTS ACT

### HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today with my friend and colleague, Mr. POMEROY, to reintroduce the Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act. This bill will allow Medicare beneficiaries direct access to qualified physical therapists without a physician referral.

Currently, Medicare beneficiaries must see a physician before being allowed to see a physical therapist. This burdensome requirement in Medicare is a regulation whose time has passed. The referral mandate is unnecessary and limits access to timely and medically necessary physical therapists' services. I believe that providing Medicare beneficiaries with direct access to physical therapists is critical as Congress looks to modernize the Medicare program.

All health care consumers should have the ability to choose the health care services they want when they need it. Allowing Medicare beneficiaries to have direct access to physical therapists will help achieve that goal. Currently, 47 states and the District of Columbia allow direct access to physical therapist evaluation and 35 states, including the state of Illinois allow their citizens to access physical therapists' services without the added cost of a physician referral. The Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act would allow Medicare beneficiaries in these states to access care that is already available to other residents of the state.

Direct access to physical therapists allows for improved access to quality health care services. A study of BlueCross BlueShield insurance claims in Maryland indicates that when a patient has direct access to physical therapists, services are neither over-utilized nor do they result in higher costs for physical therapy. To the contrary, the study found that