

pay-as-cut contract which often results in an under-realization of the fair value of the contract. While electing the pay-as-cut contract option provides access to capital gains treatment, the seller must comply with special rules in Section 631(b) of the Internal Revenue code. The provisions of Sec. 631(b) require these sellers to "retain an economic interest" in their timber until it is harvested. Under the retained economic interest requirement, the seller bears all the risk and is only paid for timber that is harvested, regardless of whether the terms of the contract are violated. Additionally, since the buyer pays for only the timber that is removed or "scaled" there is an incentive to waste poor quality timber, to under scale the timber, or to remove the timber without scaling.

The legislation I am introducing will provide greater consistency by removing the exclusive "retained economic interest" requirement in IRC Section 631(b). This change has been supported or suggested by a number of groups for tax simplification purposes, including the Internal Revenue Service. I urge my colleagues to join in this tax simplification effort and strongly urge its passage.

ON COMBATTING TERRORISM AND PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, at its recently concluded meeting, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs adopted a number of resolutions. One very important one was the resolution "On Combating Terrorism and Protecting Civil Liberties." The very title of this resolution indicates its importance—that is, the JCPA recognizes that it is important for us to be fully mindful of civil liberties as we adopt the measures needed to protect ourselves against terrorism.

As a Member of Congress, and also as a Jewish American, I welcome the balanced and thoughtful resolution, coming particularly as it does from a group which ranks high on the target list of those who engage in terrorism. In this context, when the JCPA notes that it is "particularly concerned about the treatment of United States citizens, including questions of indefinite detentions, denial of legal counsel and trials that are closed in their entirety," its members provide an excellent example of the approach that all of us should be taking in this critical time—namely, protecting ourselves against violence without infringing on our constitutionally protected freedom and liberties.

RECOGNITION OF KATIE TELGEMEIER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Katie Telgemeier, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of Amer-

ica, troop 1815, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the gold award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. Earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. Earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting; and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a girl scout gold award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her gold award project, Katie updated and refurbished a girls locker room.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Katie Telgemeier for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. EARNEST ANDREW SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. Earnest Andrew Smith. Dr. Smith was born in Macon, Georgia on August 25, 1913. His family later moved to Birmingham where Dr. Smith began school. After finishing high school, Dr. Smith entered Rust College in Holy Springs, Mississippi where he graduated in 1937. Dr. Smith continued his education at Oberlin in Ohio and Hartford seminary Foundation in Hartford, Connecticut. Dr. Smith then began to take courses at Drew University and Gammon Seminary. He has received honorary degrees from Gammon Seminary and Lambuth College.

Dr. Smith has many accomplishments. He has been the pastor of three churches as the parish minister, was principal of two high schools and was executive secretary of three different conference programs of Christian education.

In 1957, Dr. Smith was appointed president of Rust College where he managed to keep the door open despite several efforts to close the school. Dr. Smith later served thirteen years as director of the human relations for the Board of church and Society. Upon retirement, Dr. Smith moved to Memphis, Tennessee until he and his wife moved to Benton, Mississippi.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Peace Corps Day on Friday, February 28. It is a special day not only for my fellow returned Peace Corps volunteers, but also for everyone who has been touched by the Peace Corps' global reach. The Peace Corps' mission of compassion and diplomacy is more important than ever to the world population, and so I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Peace Corps on this important day.

Since 1961, Peace Corps Volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. During these 42 years, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to progress, opportunity, and development at the grass-roots level in the developing world.

In all, more than 168,000 Americans have responded to our nation's call to serve by becoming Peace Corps Volunteers in 135 countries, and I am proud to say I am one of them. As a young man, I served as a Volunteer in the Republic of El Salvador, building schools and health clinics, learning the language, and developing an enduring bond with the people, culture, and language. The experience instilled in me a profound connection to that country, and a dedication to improving international relations around the world and fulfilling the Peace Corps' third mandate.

Here in Congress, I am firmly committed to ensuring that future generations have the same opportunities that I did to carry out the mission of the Peace Corps. In fact, I believe that we need to dramatically expand and enhance these opportunities given how vital the Peace Corps' mission is in the current global climate. In that effort, I have cosponsored H.R. 250, a bill proposing to increase the number of Volunteers across the globe, reaffirm the Peace Corps' independence, and promote better mutual understanding between those serving and those whom they serve.

Mr. Speaker, the Peace Corps has been a part of my life for almost forty years. I have served as a Volunteer, I have supported important Peace Corps legislation, and now today I rise in honor of National Peace Corps Day. It is a day to honor all Peace Corps Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I, rise today in recognition of the opening of Minnesota's

new Transitional Housing Program for homeless veterans, located at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis. Today's celebration is an accumulation of hard work, dedication and determination, reflective of Minnesota's commitment to our nation's veterans and a testament to the spirit of the veterans' community in our great state.

Most Americans are not aware of the severity of our veterans' homeless problem. Nearly 25 percent of homeless people are veterans, and many veterans who live in poverty are at risk of becoming homeless. On any given night, 275,000 veterans of the United States armed forces—including thousands in Minnesota—are homeless, and many struggle with alcohol, drug, and mental challenges.

The goal of the new Transitional Housing Program is to provide and coordinate preventive transitional and permanent housing and supportive services for veterans who are experiencing homelessness or who are in danger of becoming homeless. This new program will help assist Minnesota's homeless veterans in gaining the necessary skills required to successfully transition back into mainstream society.

The most effective programs for homeless veterans feature transitional housing with the camaraderie of living in structured, substance-free environments with fellow veterans who are succeeding at bettering themselves. Minnesota's new Transitional Housing Program seeks to employ these methods and provides an important community partnership in improving the lives of those who sacrificed so much for our freedom and democracy.

As we celebrate this new program, I urge my colleagues to remember the thousands of homeless veterans across America that go without help each and every day. We must continue to support the efforts of those who seek to provide these honorable veterans with a better way of life.

NAGORNO KARABAKH LIBERATION MOVEMENT

HON. FRANK PALLONE JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want bring the attention of my colleagues to an anniversary that occurred this past Thursday, February 20th, 2003. That day marked the 15th anniversary of the modern day liberation movement of the people of the Nagorno Karabakh (NK). Fifteen years ago, in the twilight of the Soviet Union, the people of NK petitioned the Soviet government to correct historical injustices and reunite them with their brethren in Armenia.

The Armenians of NK were placed within the borders of Azerbaijan in 1921, as one of the many ethnic groups that were separated by Joseph Stalin through his "divide and conquer" strategy. Despite the fact that 96% of the population of NK were ethnically Armenian, and NK's stated wish to be part of Armenia—or even be represented as an autonomous region within Azerbaijan—the Armenians of NK were subjected to brutal Soviet Azerbaijani rule for 70 years.

During those seven decades, the Armenians of NK repeatedly stated to each successive Soviet regime their desire to be joined again with Armenia. These peaceful and legal maneuvers were met with violent repression and forced settlement of ethnic Azeris into NK.

Heydar Ailyev, current President of Azerbaijan, ran the Azeri spoke of these policies frankly to reporters on July 22, 2002. He said, "I tried to change Nagorno Karabakh's demography . . . Instead of sending Azeri workers to Baku, I sent a large number of them to Karabakh from surrounding Azerbaijani regions . . . With these and other measures, I was trying to make sure that Azerbaijani population grew in Karabakh while the Armenian population diminished. Those who used to work in Karabakh back then, know what I am talking about." This comment smacks of human rights abuses; working to directly change to demographics of the region while paying no mind to the Armenian or Azeri human condition.

In 1988, when the Armenians of NK heard of the Mikhail Gorbachev's democratization agenda, they began to again move peacefully for reunification with Armenia. At this time, the Soviet and Azeri armies would not stand even to entertain this request and immediately resorted to violence. Public expressions of determination by the Armenians of NK were met with a campaign of ethnic cleansing, deporting the Armenians of NK and Azerbaijan.

In 1991, as Armenia and Azerbaijan followed most soviet states in succession from the USSR, NK also voted to succeed. In an internationally monitored referendum, the NK population overwhelmingly voted to establish an independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic, currently known as NKR.

Following this referendum in which the country was established, the Azeri army began a full-scale war on the Armenians of NK, which took thousands of lives over three years, but eventually ended up with NKR repelling Azeri forces. This victory was gained with an army that was out-manned and out-gunned, but had desire and guile that proved to be overwhelming. This conflict had a terrific human cost, leaving 30,000 dead and over one million displaced. Thankfully, although small skirmishes have broken out from time to time, the peace has been kept since an agreement ceased hostilities in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I have repeatedly come to the House floor to speak of the plight of the Armenians of NKR. I can now speak from personal experience about NKR, having traveled there with Congressman DOGGET of Texas last August. We had the opportunity to travel to NKR to witness the Presidential elections there, where we served as official monitors. I am proud to say that all election observers that participated in this historic event gave an overwhelmingly positive response. One group in particular, headed by the Baroness Cox from England stated that, "Our overall conclusion is one of congratulations to all the people of Artsakh (NKR) for the spirit in which the elections have been conducted, their commitment to the democratic process and their pride in their progress towards the establishment of civil society."

This process is astounding considering that NKR is not recognized internationally; that they still must deal every day with Azeri ag-

gression, and that their economy is still devastated from the war. The elections were reported to have met, if not exceeded international standards. All this just 9 short years removed from all-out war.

Congress recognized this consistent move towards democracy, granting NKR 20 million dollars in humanitarian assistance in FY '97, and an additional 5 million dollars in FY '03. This assistance has not just been crucial for needs of the people of NKR, but has also fostered the beginnings of an excellent relationship between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to end with a final example of what I saw in Armenia in August last year. During the elections, as I visited the capitol city and small villages alike, everyone I spoke to was incredibly excited about the prospect of voting. They viewed the vote not only as a choice of the leader of their country for the next five years, but a statewide referendum on the democratic process and independence of NKR.

I congratulate the people of NKR for the 15th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Liberation movement and their incredible determination to establish a free and open democratic society.

RECOGNITION OF HEIDI TILLY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Heidi Tilly, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 472, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the gold award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the gold award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, 1. earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, 2. earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, 3. earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, 4. designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and 5. spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her gold award project, Heidi refurbished and painted a playground.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Heidi Tilly for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the gold award.