

could we. We are saying very clearly, however, that if you promised an employee a certain pension, pay that employee the pension you promised.

Our bill would guarantee the right of employees who are 40 years old or older, or who have worked for ten or more years for the same company, to choose to stay in the traditional defined benefit pension plan even if the company decides to convert that plan to a cash balance plan.

When Treasury Secretary Snow visited with Senators DURBIN and HARKIN this past January prior to his confirmation, he told them that he believed in choice. He told them that his railroad company, CSX, offered choice. He said a board he sat on, Verizon, offered choice.

But now he is overseeing a pending change to pension regulations at the Department of Treasury that would not require companies to offer choice. Under the pending rules, a well-meaning company would be allowed to offer choice or otherwise treat their employees fairly.

The problem is that the rules do not require that they be treated fairly. That is wrong. And that is why we are sponsoring this legislation.

As BERNIE pointed out a few weeks ago, no member of Congress would want to see the pension system here changed in mid-stream if it meant that after working for 25 years you would find your expected pension cut in half.

Millions of employees across the country don't want to see their hard-earned benefits cut either. But they are afraid. They are looking at their retirement years, after a lifetime of work, and they are afraid that after a cash balance conversion they will lose half of the benefits they expected and worked so hard to achieve. The General Accounting Office has documented that conversions especially hurt older employees and can cost them as much as half of their pension benefits.

These employees are looking at the cost of health insurance, the cost of college for their children, and the cost of retirement. They have counted on their pension to help them through some of those costs. But under a conversion, they risk seeing those benefits and those dreams, cut.

Mr. Speaker, I have been contacted by employees in every industry from across the country, from the airline industry, the finance industry, and industrial companies. They are wondering why in the world would President Bush promote new rules that deliberately give employers the legal protection to slash pension benefits.

The President's proposal raises serious questions about the direction in which he is taking the nation and the people who work so hard every day to make ends meet.

The President does not have a policy to create jobs.

The President does not have a policy to eliminate the budget deficit.

The President does not have a policy to provide health insurance to the uninsured.

But President Bush does have a plan to help companies slash employees' pension benefits.

The business press is full of stories about this problem—retirement security. This isn't something BERNIE SANDERS and RAHM EMANUEL and I have made up. The economic future of Americans is in serious jeopardy and these pension rules are one important part of that problem.

Our legislation will not create jobs, or restore the budget surplus, provide health insurance, or turn around the stock market, although we have proposals to accomplish those goals. Those are not the goals of this particular bill.

But our bill will establish fairness for the treatment of older employees' hard-earned pension benefits. That is what they deserve, what they expect, and what they need.

REGARDING THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF SERGEANT ORLANDO MORALES IN AFGHANISTAN ON MARCH 29, 2003

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today with a saddened heart for the untimely death of a resident in South Florida who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. On Saturday, March 29, 2003, gunmen on motorcycles ambushed a U.S. military reconnaissance patrol in Southern Afghanistan and killed Sergeant Orlando Morales. I wish to express my deepest condolences to Ms. Maria Roxana Morales and the entire Morales family, and at the same time offer all my support and prayers.

I believe a person's life is not measured by the time spent on this earth, but by what is accomplished while here. With this in mind, Sergeant Morales will always be considered a hero. The ultimate passing of any true hero is a tragedy.

This tragedy only crystallizes the great risk and danger these brave men experience in the name of the people of the United States. All of America mourns the loss of our military men and women, though we cannot feel the depth of the families' pain. We never forget that the peace and prosperity that we enjoy are founded on the ultimate sacrifices made by those who have lost their lives in war throughout our nation's history. They have earned our gratitude and respect.

Because of the very high regard in which I hold all members of the armed services, it is especially disturbing to me when one of these fine young men or women is killed. By any measure, their contributions, in terms of human sacrifice, are immense. As a nation we share the sense of loss that the Morales family is experiencing. Though sorrow runs deep, our pride for Orlando Morales shines brightly.

HONORING JIM AND KATHLEEN HURCKES

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim and Kathleen, "Bonnie", Hurckes, outstanding former residents of the City of Chicago and the greater Southwest side. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Good Friday, April 18, 2003. Their celebration is scheduled for April 13, 2003 at St. Andrew the Apostle in Romeoville, Illinois.

Jim and Bonnie have spent five decades of married life together and have produced a loving and nurturing family consisting of eight children: James (Carol), John, Jeff, Judith (Ron), Joyce, Jerry (Mary Ann), Joseph, and June (Dominic). They are also proud grandparents of their 17 grandchildren: Jay, Jackie, Christine, Rick, Joe, Peggy, Mike, Robert, John, Jeff, Stephanie, Kathleen, Dominic, Nick, Jenna, Mark, and Megan, as well as their first greatgrandchild, Jayton.

Jim and Bonnie have passed fifty years of marriage in loving and consistent devotion to one another, truly exemplifying the spirit of the sacrament of holy matrimony and serving as a model and inspiration to their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, as Jim and Bonnie continue their wedded journey, I would ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this remarkable couple.

HONORING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2003 COUNTIES CARE FOR KIDS AWARD

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fairfax County's Healthy Families program on their recognition by the National Association of Counties as a 2003 Counties Care for Kids Award recipient.

Healthy Families Fairfax was launched in 1992 under the parent organization Healthy Families America, and has now been working to improve childcare in Fairfax for over a decade. This Counties Care for Kids Award recognizes the program as an innovative and model county government effort that has demonstrated measurable outcomes for children and their families. Healthy Families Fairfax works directly with first-time parents to promote child health. A public-health nurse and family support worker provide educational and therapeutic support to the family at home, from prenatal through age four of the child.

Studies have shown the immense impact of early childhood care on child development, but unfortunately many children are neglected and even abused during their pivotal formative years. By assisting parents with parenting, health, nutrition, problem-solving, and stress management, Healthy Families Fairfax gives children and families the opportunity to grow up together in a healthy environment. While similar programs do exist, most do not approach the comprehensive approach of Healthy Families Fairfax, whose support teams not only address parenting issues, but also assist families with family problems not directly related to the new baby. This inclusive method affords homes a viable chance to succeed in raising their baby and building a life together.

This worthy project is a voluntary prevention program of the Department of Family Services, in partnership with the Fairfax County Department of Health, Northern Virginia Family Service, UCM Community Solutions, and Reston Interfaith. Only eight programs nationwide have been chosen as 2003 Counties

Care for Kids Award recipients, and Healthy Families Fairfax certainly exemplifies the positive impact that county-wide programs hope to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is an honor to extend my warm congratulations to Healthy Families Fairfax for all of their achievements. The recognition by the National Association of Counties is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in wishing the Healthy Families Fairfax future success.

HONORING OAK CLIFF LIONS CLUB

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Oak Cliff Lions Club. This organization has served the Oak Cliff Community faithfully and continually now for seven decades. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate them on their 70th Anniversary. I am proud to be a member of such an organization, one that promotes education, leadership, strong values, and togetherness.

Lions commit themselves to improving the lives of everyone. They are always determined to help the less fortunate, whether they are thousands of miles away, or just down the street. Through the Lions Club, young people can earn scholarships to participate in both international exchanges and community outreach programs.

Lions Clubs not only promote service to their communities, but to the entire world, with over 1.4 million members in 190 countries. In today's global society, Lions clubs are perhaps more important than ever before. Oak Cliff Lions are looking forward to the challenges of today and tomorrow with optimism and unwavering loyalty. Our message is simple but clear. We serve.

Since Lions clubs were established, Lions have been dedicated to giving something back, and I am certain that the Oak Cliff Lions Club will continue its tradition of selfless service and pride in our great community.

A BILL TO PERMIT COOPERATIVES TO PAY DIVIDENDS ON PREFERRED STOCK WITHOUT REDUCING PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Cooperative Dividend Equity Act. This legislation will help to end an unfair tax on cooperatives and their members.

As those of us from agricultural and rural areas can attest, cooperatives play a vital role in many Americans' lives. Whether it be farmers pooling their resources in order to survive in the global marketplace, consumers maximizing their buying power through volume purchasing, or healthcare facilities providing community-based services—cooperatives facilitate people working together for a common good.

One of the greatest challenges facing cooperatives today is access to capital. In order

to raise much needed capital and avoid further debt, many cooperatives are considering issuing preferred stock. However, under the current tax laws, stock dividends paid to stockholders are taxed three times: (1) When they are earned by the cooperative; (2) when received by the stockholder; and (3) at the corporate level when earnings are distributed.

Members of cooperatives are taxed on income generated by the cooperative. The cooperative itself, however, is not taxed so long as any "patronage income" is distributed to its members. Cooperatives frequently earn at least some non-member, or "nonpatronage," income. Much like a corporation, a cooperative must pay taxes on such nonpatronage income, just as the stockholder, whether a member or non-member, must also pay tax on that income when it is distributed as a dividend. Unlike a corporation, however, cooperatives must then pay what amounts to a third tax due to the operation of an obscure IRS rule.

The "dividend allocation rule" imposes a third level of taxation on the cooperative by reducing the amount of patronage dividends paid to cooperative members. Cooperatives, such as a typical farming cooperative, may deduct dividends paid to patrons from taxable income. IRS regulations, however, provide that net earnings eligible for the patronage dividend deduction are reduced by dividends paid on capital stock. This requirement has been interpreted to mean that even dividends paid out of nonpatronage earnings will be "allocated" to a cooperative's patronage and nonpatronage earnings in proportion to the relative amount of patronage/nonpatronage business done by the cooperative. This "allocation" significantly reduces the amount of net earnings from the patronage operation that may be claimed as a deduction, thus increasing the cooperative's level of taxation.

Put more simply, the "dividend allocation rule" allocates income already taxed against what would have otherwise been a deduction. As a result, cooperatives pay more taxes on income used to pay a dividend on stock than would a non-cooperative corporation.

It is time to end the triple taxation on cooperative income and give farmers, consumers, hospitals, and other coop members the flexibility they deserve in structuring their affairs. It is time to eliminate the dividend allocation rule and pass the Cooperative Dividend Equity Act of 2003.

EMERGENCY WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1559) making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the wartime supplemental appropriations bill. Yet, I am greatly troubled by this vote.

The President's crusade to preemptively invade Iraq without regard to peace or diplomacy was wrong. I voted against the resolution giving him the authority to do so and remain opposed to this war. I continue to question the President's judgment as commander-in-chief. Yet, when our troops are in harms way, Congress has a duty to support them and support them we must.

This bill provides our men and women in uniform with the resources that I hope will bring a swift end to the war and minimize the loss of life. That is why I am voting in favor of it today.

HONORING THE POEMS OF STUDENTS FROM THE JFK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL IN DEER PARK, NEW YORK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the poems of the students of the JFK Intermediate School in Deer Park, New York.

Like all of us, the war in Iraq is on the minds of America's children. Students at the JFK Intermediate School have taken time to acknowledge the troops and thank them for their dedication and service to our country.

Kyle Thorn, age 10, writes: "I just want to thank you for protecting not only your country, you are also protecting your people. I also want to thank you for risking your life for every American when you don't even know them. You are what a true American citizen is. When you are out there in Iraq you are not only saluting your country, you are saluting the people in your country."

I join with these students in their continued support and appreciation for our troops at home and abroad and pray for their safe return home.

DEAR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN: Hi my name is Kyle Thorn, I am 10 years old and I live in Derr Park, Ny. I have an older brother who is 14 and a younger sister that is 6. I dont know if you know him but I have an Uncle whose in the Air National 106th Reserve. His name is George Kalamoros.

In this letter I just want to thank-you For protecting not only your country you are also protecting your people. I also want to thank-you for risking your life for every american when you dont-even know them. You are what a true american citizen is. When you are out there in Iraq you are not only saluting your country you are saluting the people in your country.

From,

KYLE THORN.

DEAR ALEX: hI my name is George. Ylitelo. I rote this Letter To Thank you for serving this country. I hope their is no war. You are thought of every day. IF their is A war Dont worry because you are not alone you have U.S.A.

This is the real world so that means George W. Bush mite make some kind of Deal. If he does not you have the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines. I know you will make It threw the Long Days of hard work in the Desert.

You Friend,

GEORGE YLITELLO.