

remarkable woman who continues to remain an active and vibrant part of her community.

Mrs. Davidson was born April 29, 1903, to the late Dr. Alfred Nelson Gordon and Sallie Holden Gordon on a farm in my hometown community of Rutherford County, TN. She has lived through 18 U.S. presidents and has witnessed a dizzying array of technological achievements, including traveling to town by horse and buggy to reaching the stars by way of powerful rockets. She has watched telecommunications advance from a simple hand-crank telephone hanging on the wall to a hand-held digital telephone using signals delivered by way of satellite.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from the old Tennessee College for Women in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Mrs. Davidson raised a child, Sara, and taught school for more than four decades before retiring in 1968. Through her active life, Mrs. Davidson enjoyed a multitude of hobbies, including gardening, cooking and sewing. In fact, she currently leads a knitting class at her home in the McKendree Retirement Village. And she has won nearly a dozen gold medals while participating in the Senior Olympics.

Mrs. Davidson is the epitome of living life to the fullest. Her keen wit and positive attitude have given her a wonderful disposition, one that we should wish to have. I congratulate Mrs. Davidson for her countless contributions to her community and her country.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP BURTON

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commemorate the life of the late Congressman Phil Burton, who in my humble opinion was one of the greatest and most brilliant legislators in modern times.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with Phil Burton can certainly attest to his unique and outstanding leadership capabilities and his tremendous influence still being felt today. No doubt we all have our Phil Burton stories to tell, most of which center around the life and times of a man who is one of the great legislative giants of our times.

Twenty years ago, over 125 Members of Congress, including House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill, traveled to San Francisco to attend a special memorial service in honor of Phil Burton. It was one of the largest delegations of Members, perhaps even the largest, to attend a memorial service of one of its own colleagues.

I remember former California Assembly Speaker and now Mayor of San Francisco, Mayor Willie Brown, a close personal friend and associate of Phil Burton, made an interesting observation of Phil's life and career. Mayor Brown said, "Now I know some of you Members of Congress are here to pay your respects and truly offer your sympathies to Sala (Phil's wife) and the family. But I also sense that some of you are here to be absolutely certain that Phil Burton is dead and to be sure that you will never have to confront him again."

At the memorial service, House Speaker Tip O'Neill also made this comment concerning

Phil Burton. He said, "Few in the House of the past or in the present can match his contribution." "Phil had his losses, but he always shoved adversity aside. He fought for the hungry and the sick and against bigotry with tremendous energy and commitment."

Some people describe Phil Burton as an ultra-liberal and very difficult to work with because of his so-called ideology. But I considered Phil a very unique kind of liberal, one who was able to foster relationships with other Members, despite differences in ideologies. It was not uncommon to find Phil in a corner of this chamber talking to a conservative Republican or conservative Democrat. I remember well one of Phil's famous proverbial expressions, "Cut the B.S. and let's be operational."

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are well aware, one of the most ideologically-based committees in this institution is the Committee on Resources. A committee composed mainly of Members from Western states, whose districts are significantly effected by the involvement of the Federal Government regarding the control and administration of millions of acres of land which are located in these states.

Recognizing the atmosphere that existed in the Committee, I once asked former Congressman Sam Steiger, a senior Republican from Arizona, how he was able to get along with a liberal like Phil. Congressman Steiger replied, "Two things Eni. First, Phil is among the few liberals who at least comes and talks to us on this side of the aisle, and second, in all the years that I've known and worked with him, Phil Burton has never broken a promise." Mr. Speaker, Phil Burton was a man of his word.

Long before I knew that I was going to be a member of this great institution, I served as a member of Phil's staff. From him I learned a lesson that I have carried with me ever since. "Eni," he told me, "the only thing that matters and is worth anything working in this place—is your word. Don't ever forget that."

Mr. Speaker, I haven't forgotten this lesson, and the many others I learned from Phil. He was a man of principle, conviction and determination. A man who left behind a legacy of integrity. A man who was my mentor and friend.

TRIBUTE TO PULITZER PRIZE WINNING BOSTON GLOBE

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Boston Globe on their Pulitzer Prize for public service, journalism's highest honor, for their coverage of the clergy abuse scandal in Boston. They are to be commended for their outstanding and comprehensive reporting.

In January of last year the Globe ran a Spotlight series, which showed a widespread pattern of sexual abuse by priests, covered up by the Archdiocese of Boston. Throughout the year, a team of reporters, including Spotlight reporters Walter V. Robinson, Matthew Carroll, Sacha Pfeiffer, and Michael Rezendes; investigative reporters Kevin Cullen, Thomas Farragher, and Stephen Kurkjian; and religion reporter Michael Paulson, managed by editors

Ben Bradlee Jr. and Mark S. Morrow, produced nearly 800 stories related to the scandal.

The Globe executed courageous and timely reporting and coverage of the scandal. They reached a level of reporting and coverage unparalleled in recent times in its depth and force of reporting. As a result of their coverage, the scandal received international attention, and culminated with the resignation of Cardinal Bernard F. Law in December.

At a time when we need public servants, and we call on our citizens to offer their services to our communities and to our country, the Globe proved that newspapers too can rise to the challenge and provide an incredible public service. There is no doubt that the thousands of families, who found a voice through the pages of the newspaper's coverage of this scandal, are far better off for the Globe's work. We all owe them our thanks and a debt of gratitude for their service.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION BY KACEY L. REYNOLDS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young lady in my District, Ms. Kacey L. Reynolds of Calvert City, Kentucky. Ms. Reynolds is the Kentucky winner of the 2003 Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest. Ms. Reynolds's script, entitled "Freedom's Obligation," has great meaning as our armed forces are in the process of liberating the Iraqi people and giving them the freedoms we enjoy everyday. At sixteen years old, Ms. Reynolds has a true understanding of what freedom means and what individuals must do to preserve it. I have attached a copy of Ms. Reynolds's script to be placed in the RECORD. I urge all my colleagues to read her inspiring thoughts on the true value of freedom.

[From the 2002-2003 VFW Voice of
Democracy Scholarship Contest]

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

(By Kacey Reynolds—Kentucky Winner)

Our forefathers viewed freedom as a quest—a goal they lived, and gave, their lives fearlessly pursuing. Today, most of us view freedom as a privilege we deserve, a complimentary right owed to us, simply because we are American. But our liberty must never be taken for granted and we must never delude ourselves into believing freedom is free. Independence has always come at a price, and we have a responsibility to ensure that it continues so the heroic sacrifices made to secure it were not in vain. Freedom is a blessing and a responsibility and our obligation to it is threefold.

Our first obligation to freedom is that of education. Thomas Jefferson once said, "If a nation expects to be ignorant AND free, in a state of civilization, then it expects what never was and never will be." Ignorance is the first enemy of liberty. It is through education that we possess the freedom, not only to provide for ourselves, but to choose the manner in which we do so. It is through learning that we open our minds to new concepts and courageous ideals to better govern ourselves. It is through a knowledge of our history that we take pride in who we are and our rich heritage as Americans. Education

provides opportunity—the opportunity to be self-sufficient, the opportunity to understand, the opportunity to be free.

Our second obligation to freedom is that of obedience. America's government is "of the people, by the people and for the people", but our founding fathers knew that no people can be truly free if any individual person is allowed to violate the rights of others. Obedience to the law is essential for equality and security. If we expect our government to provide freedom for us, then we have a responsibility to respect each other. Crime is the second enemy of liberty. President Theodore Roosevelt said, "No man is above the law and no man is below it. Nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience is demanded as a right, not asked as a favor." Obedience by each individual provides freedom for all.

Our third obligation to freedom is that of service, of giving back to our community, our government, and our country. We, as citizens of that freedom, hold a responsibility to dedicate our time, our resources, our passion, and, sometimes, even our lives for the greater good. It is in serving one another that we become united. If we fail to give of ourselves, then we fail the memory of those brave souls who went before us to sacrifice everything. Selfishness is the third enemy of liberty, but volunteering our service affords us the opportunity to give back what we receive. Only in this service can our country provide us with true freedom.

Without education, how can we be free to govern ourselves? Without obedience to our laws, how can we ensure safety and security for all people? Without service, how can we expect others to fight and die for our freedom? We cannot. We must dauntlessly pursue education, bravely stand up for what is right through obedience and unselfishly give of ourselves through service so freedom can continue to flourish. This is our obligation. It is in being the "home of the brave" that makes us "the land of the free".

THE FREEDOM FLAT TAX ACT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Freedom Flat Tax Act.

Albert Einstein once said, "The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax." If you look at the current Tax Code, it is easy to see his genius.

The cost of the current income tax system in both time and dollars is just too high. Each year, Americans spend 6.1 billion hours preparing their tax forms and businesses spend 800 million hours complying with the Tax Code. In 2001 alone, Americans lost at least \$183 billion in opportunity costs—calculated at \$30/hour—that people spent working on their taxes instead of working on money-producing activities for themselves.

Two-thirds of Americans think the income tax system is too complex. We need a simpler system for all Americans to understand. Taxpayer phone calls to the IRS help line doubled during the 1990s from 56 million to 111 million, even though the number of taxpayers only grew by 12 percent. The Federal tax rules are over 45,500 pages in length, which is double the number of pages since the 1970s, including the full Tax Code, IRS rules and regulations, and tax court rulings. As of

May 2000, the Tax Code contained 1,395,028 words—nearly 319 times the number of words in the U.S. Constitution. The average taxpayer pays \$1,839 per household in compliance costs. In other words, that taxpayer must work 6 days per year just to pay for the cost of preparing his or her taxes for that year. These complexities are completely unnecessary.

I believe Americans need to keep more of their money they work for each day. Valuable resources are being lost to taxes; resources that could be used for productive, job-creating economic behavior or for spending time with our families. As you can see, the costs imposed by our tax system are just too high.

It is for this reason that I am introducing the Freedom Flat Tax Act. This legislation will allow Americans to opt out of the current convoluted and complex tax system and into a pro-growth tax system that will restore fairness, simplicity, and efficiency to our Tax Code. Congress has the obligation to remove those obstacles to American economic growth and health.

The Freedom Flat Tax will phase-in the flat tax over a 3-year period, with a 19-percent rate for the first 2 years and a 17-percent rate in subsequent years. It will have no deductions or loopholes, but will allow some personal exemptions, including a \$5,510 exemption for each dependent.

We've heard of the flat tax before. Here's how my proposal differs from other versions of the flat tax bill: First of all, it is optional. This bill will allow individuals and businesses to choose if and when they will opt into the system. Second, it is permanent. The decision to opt into the flat tax system will be permanent to prevent possible tax evasion resulting from taxpayers jumping back and forth from the current income-based system to the flat tax system.

The Freedom Flat Tax will create a system that promotes fairness and economic prosperity by treating everyone the same, regardless of income or occupation, and removing the special preferences and disincentives for economic growth that characterize our current tax system.

The goal of the Freedom Flat Tax is to create a tax system that minimizes the number of market-distorting investment decisions that are made as a result of the current tax system; people will base their financial decisions on common-sense economics, not the tax code. When savings are no longer taxed twice, people will save and invest more, leading to higher productivity and greater take-home pay. The flat tax will spur economic growth by eliminating the current tax code's bias against savings and investment. Because the flat tax treats all economic activity equally, it will promote greater economic efficiency and increased prosperity.

It is estimated that the flat tax system will save taxpayers more than \$100 billion per year. This increase in take home pay will give people more money to spend in the economy, which will help boost economic activity. In these difficult times, Congress will soon be debating the need for an economic stimulus. Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to stop and imagine what a stimulus that \$100 billion would provide to our economy if we put it in the hands of average Americans! I yield the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes today due to memorial services being held in my district of El Paso in memory of the nine soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company who were killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. If present, I would have voted no on the Rahall Amendment (rollcall 143) which did not provide for the productive use of petroleum resources in Alaska that could benefit local indigenous populations and our energy security. On the motion to recommit (rollcall 144), I would have voted aye. On final passage of H.R. 6 (rollcall 145), I would have voted no. I am concerned that the energy bill we voted on today lacks sufficient consumer protections and provides too many taxpayer handouts at a time when our federal budget is under the strain of record deficits and the costs of war.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAINE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION TEAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, Twenty-four exceptional students from the 9th Congressional District are ready to compete against the smartest and the brightest from around the country in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution. The 24 students, all seniors from Maine South High School in Park Ridge, IL, have recently won the Illinois State competition and will represent our great State in the national finals.

What does it take to make it into the finals of this prestigious contest? What does it take to make it this far? The answer is clear: Dedication, hard work, and countless hours reading, researching, and studying the great document that is the foundation of our democracy: the Constitution of the United States of America—the symbol of personal freedom and protection.

Each year, the "We the People" foundation hosts district, State and national level Congressional-style hearings on the history and principles of Constitutional democracy in the United States. Participants are tested on their knowledge of the Constitution and its foundations and applications to our country.

The "We the People" contest is an invaluable learning experience for Maine South High School students and other students from around the country. The program helps promote democracy and encourages civic participation in the issues of critical importance to our freedoms by young men and women and I am hopeful they will carry those lessons with them into the future.

I would like to commend the students of Maine South High School's Constitution Team and their academic advisor Dan States for their hard work and great scholastic achievement and I wish them the best of luck in the national finals.