

MODEST INCOME FOR VOLUNTEER
WORK IN ELDER SERVICES
CORPS IN MASSACHUSETTS
SHOULD NOT BE TAXED

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today with my colleagues Representatives CAPUANO, DELAHUNT and MARKEY, to allow an exclusion from gross income of stipends received by persons over the age of 60 for volunteer services performed under a qualified State program.

The Elder Services Corps in the State of Massachusetts was created in 1973. It is composed of individuals at least 60 years of age and allows volunteers to assist in meeting the needs of the elderly population of the Commonwealth. Individuals enroll for 1 year at a time, and are required to volunteer 18 hours per week or 72 hours per month, and receive a stipend of \$130 a month. The program is 100 percent State funded.

Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why the modest income received for this volunteer service should be subject to tax, especially employment taxes. I hope Congress will act on this legislation this year, and provide an additional incentive for an expansion of this program in Massachusetts, and its adoption by other States.

H.R. 1350: IMPROVING EDUCATION
RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES ACT OF 2003

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, in America, all students, including those with disabilities, have the right to a free and appropriate education. Despite this fundamental right, the special educational needs of children with disabilities have sometimes gone unmet. That is why in 1975, Congress set out to correct this wrong with a law now called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA provides federal funding to help states and school districts meet their legal obligations to educate children with disabilities, and to pay 40 percent of the extra expenses of doing so. Currently, such federal aid only provides 18 percent of the extra costs of educating students with disabilities.

I strongly believe that individuals with disabilities have the right to participate in and contribute to society. Improving the educational opportunities and results for children with disabilities is an important step towards ensuring not only their full participation in society, but equality for all. However H.R. 1350, the Republican proposal to reauthorize IDEA, jeopardizes the quality of education provided to children with disabilities and weakens their civil and due process rights under current law. Furthermore, it does not guarantee any new funds for IDEA, it punishes children for actions they have no control over, and limits parental advocacy at due process hearings regarding

their child's education. Because this bill does not offer enough help to the schools in my community of the San Gabriel Valley and East Los Angeles, I strongly oppose it. This bill simply turns back the clock of progress we have made in this area.

TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE LITTLE, CO-
RONA-NORCO UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, CA are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Maggie Little is one of these individuals. On June 6, 2003 Maggie will be honored as she retires after 36 years of dedicated service to the students, employees, parents, community and business members of the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

Maggie has served in several capacities throughout her 36 year career with the Corona-Norco Unified School District including teacher, principal and administrator. She has always observed an "open-door" policy and provided guidance to those who looked for her help. She had extended her hand and expertise to support any child, teacher or employee and served as a role model and mentor to administrators, teachers and students. Throughout her career she has consistently displayed patience, dependability and integrity.

Maggie's position as Corona-Norco Unified School District media spokesperson, the public relations liaison to community service organizations, has contributed immensely to improved communications to the public. Maggie oversaw the production of numerous educational publications informing the public of student and school achievements and contributed her time, energy, and outstanding organizational skills to numerous professional and community organizations in the cities of Corona and Norco and the County of Riverside in order to better inform residents of the high quality of education and academics in the community.

Maggie's tireless passion for education has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. Maggie has demonstrated her willingness to work hard for quality education and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many children, parents, fellow teachers and administrators are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON
WILLIAMS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Williams for his dedi-

cated service to the Fort Knox CORE Committee.

While Don will continue to serve on the committee, today is his last meeting as Executive Director, a position he has held with the CORE Committee for the past 7 years. Under Don's leadership, the CORE Committee has become a strong advocate for Fort Knox with local, State and Federal Government leaders. Don has been an excellent partner with our Congressional delegation, helping us to better understand Fort Knox's needs and enhancing communication between the delegation and Fort Knox leaders.

Fort Knox is an asset to the Army and to the Second District of Kentucky. Don Williams understands Fort Knox's mission, and he has been an asset to Fort Knox and the Hardin County community's efforts to promote and protect the base.

This is not Don's first retirement. In 1990, he retired from the Army after 28 years of service, including assignments as Secretary to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon and as Chief of Staff at Fort Knox.

While Don is stepping down as Executive Director, he will continue to be involved in the CORE Committee, as well as the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs, Fort Knox's chapter of the AUSA, the Patton Museum and the Executive Committee of the Armor and Cavalry Affairs. All of these organizations benefit from Don's knowledge and experience with the Army and his commitment to Fort Knox's role in the Army and in the local community.

I have enjoyed working with Don over the past 7 years. He has helped me better represent the Fort Knox community in Congress. Thank you, Don, for your service to the CORE Committee and your dedication to Fort Knox and the Army.

IGNORANCE OF ARABIC IS NOT
BLISS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker. Among the sillier policies that are pursued because some people do not like gay men and lesbians is the one which refuses to allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve their country in the armed forces. This is in great contrast to, to take a particularly striking example, Israel, which has openly gay and lesbian people in the Israeli Defense Force. Those who argue that the presence of openly gay and lesbian soldiers erodes morale have a very hard time explaining the example of the IDF.

In our own country, this self-inflicted mood reached new depths recently when the military began expelling from its ranks people who were becoming expert in Arabic and other languages, which are relevant to our fight against terrorism. From "don't ask, don't tell" we have proceeded to "don't ask, don't tell, don't translate," and our national interest is a loser. We already have too few people skilled in translating many of the languages that are used by terrorists, and we detract from our own security by turning away those who would help us overcome this deficiency.

Recently, the Linguistic Society of America founded in 1924 "for the advancement of the

scientific study of language" spoke out against this policy. That meeting adopted the following resolution and because of the importance of this issue to our national security, I ask that it be printed here.

Whereas linguists, translators, and interpreters serving at the Defense Language Institute have made important contributions to the nation's defense since the Institute's inception;

Whereas language specialists fluent in Arabic and other critical languages are especially vital to U.S. national security at this time;

Whereas the General Accounting Office reports that there is currently a serious shortage of such linguists in the military;

Whereas the military's recent dismissal of highly trained and highly skilled language specialists who are gay or lesbian presents a significant risk to national security;

Whereas sexual orientation is irrelevant to one's job performance, and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is unjust;

Therefore be it resolved that the Linguistic Society of America make known its opposition to the U.S. military's policy of dismissing linguists, translators, interpreters, or other members of the armed forces on the basis of their sexual orientation.

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunizations Act of 2003. This important legislation will improve our nation's efforts to immunize all children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines have made dramatic improvements in the lives of children and adults in the last century. Scourges such as polio and small pox have been eradicated thanks to advancements in vaccine research.

Childhood vaccinations prevent nine serious infectious diseases. Thanks to immunizations, children no longer have to suffer from the dangers of polio, measles, diphtheria, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), tetanus, hepatitis-B, or Hib (the most common cause of meningitis).

Immunizations are not only sound medicine, they're sound public health policy. More than \$21 is saved for every dollar spent on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine. Almost \$30 is saved for every dollar spent on diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine.

Unfortunately, many children do not have access to these life-saving vaccines. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nationwide vaccination coverage levels decreased from 73.2 percent in 1999 to 72.8 percent in the year 2000. In fact, one third of two-year-old children are under-immunized, and in some cities and urban areas, more than 50 percent of children are not fully immunized.

Part of the problem is that health insurance coverage of immunization is spotty at best. According to the Institute of Medicine Report "Calling the Shots," private health insurance immunization coverage varies widely by type

of plan as well as by vaccine. Enrollment in a private plan does not guarantee that immunizations will be provided.

Although 28 states have enacted legislation that would require private plans to cover immunizations, plans governed by ERISA are not subject to these requirements. The IOM Report recommends that all health insurance plans, including ERISA self-insured plans, should offer first-dollar coverage for childhood vaccines recommended in the harmonized immunization schedule.

The Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunization Act of 2003 would address this problem by requiring ERISA governed health plans and plans covered by the Public Health Services Act to cover vaccines for children under 18 years. Vaccines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule must be covered.

The federal government provides this benefit for its own workers, and twenty-eight states have enacted laws to require state-regulated plans to cover vaccines. Unfortunately, ERISA plans do not have to comply with state laws. This legislation will ensure that all children, regardless of the type of insurance they have, will receive life-saving vaccines. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting immunization coverage for all children.

HONORING MATT RYAN

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I served with Matt Ryan in the Pennsylvania General Assembly for 24 years.

Having worked with him all those years, never once did I question his dedication to his job or his commitment to making life better for all of Pennsylvania's 12 million citizens.

We worked together on a lot of things, but I'll always remember very fondly the work we did together on the Capitol Preservation Committee.

Time and time again, I've heard tourists who have visited dozens of state capitols say that Pennsylvania's is the most beautiful.

Matt and I shared a vision of restoring that beautiful, century-old building to its original grandeur.

It was a project that took a lot of years, and a project that will never really be complete.

But it was a labor of love for us.

It goes without saying that restoring the capitol was only one of Matt's many accomplishments.

Matt served in the General Assembly for more than four decades, and he seemed like a man who was destined to lead.

He was always fair and always compassionate.

He was good at building consensus, even on difficult issues.

And he was a man of his word.

As the longest-serving Republican Speaker of the House since the Republican Party was founded, he left his mark on this Commonwealth as much as any Pennsylvanian since Ben Franklin.

He was a valuable partner, a respected leader, and a very, very good friend.

I'll miss him.

COMMENDING SILVER BELL CLUB, LODGE 2365 OF POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish National Alliance of the United States, will be hosting the 30th Annual Hank Stram-Tony Zale Sports Award Banquet on May 19, 2003, at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana. Twenty outstanding Northwest Indiana High School athletes will be honored at this notable event for their dedication and hard work. These outstanding students were chosen to receive the award by their respective schools on the basis of academic and athletic achievement. All proceeds from this event will go toward a scholarship fund to be awarded to local students.

This year's Hank Stram-Tony Zale Award recipients include Lyndee Lee Arnold of Highland High School, Jennifer Barta of Hammond Morton High School, Jared Byczko of Merrillville High School, Lauren Curosh of Whiting High School, Brittany Drobac of Hobart High School, Lori Granich of Bishop Noll High School, Regina Gregorczyk of Andean High School, Derrick Holeman of Hammond Gavit High School, Biljana Jasnic of Portage High School, Jovan Jęflich of Valparaiso High School, Brad MacFarlane of Griffith High School, Michael Marszalek of Lowell High School, Sean O'Drobinak of Crown Point High School, Tim Piatek of Munster High School, Chad Pruzin of Crown Point High School, Tiffany Redlarczyk of Lake Central High School, Maggie Reichersamer of Hammond High School, Jason Renn of Valparaiso High School, Todd Schafer of Wheeler High School and Kari Schmidt of Hammond High School.

The featured speaker at this gala event will be Hall of Fame defensive lineman Dan Hampton. Hampton was a menacing, yet versatile, defender who served 12 seasons aggressively protecting the line of scrimmage for the Chicago Bears. An All-American out of the University of Arkansas, he was selected by the Bears in the first round of the 1979 National Football League Draft. Hampton's contribution to the defense as a rookie paved the way for his Hall of Fame career. He recorded 70 tackles, two sacks, two fumble recoveries, and three passes defended in his first campaign, then eclipsed that performance in his sophomore season by recording 73 tackles and leading the Bears with 11.5 sacks. He also earned his first of four Pro Bowl appearances. Dan Hampton will probably be remembered best as a huge part of the Bears' 1985 defense that allowed just 198 points in 16 regular season games, and 10 points in three playoff games, including a dominating performance over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish