

growth. In fact, every million dollars in manufacturing sales creates 14 jobs, eight in manufacturing and six in our service sector. In contrast, every million dollars sold in the service sector only creates 3.5 jobs.

So when faced with tight budgets and record unemployment, it does not take a genius to see that we get the most bang for our buck by shoring up our manufacturing sector. The gentleman from Illinois and the gentleman from New York have put forth a bill that would fix this tax provision while mitigating the negative effects on our manufacturing industry. Most important, however, the aptly titled Jobs Protection Act would provide the necessary incentives to keep these well-paying manufacturing jobs here in the United States. With this bill they hit the nail on the head. The AFL-CIO knows it, the National Association of Manufacturers knows it, and 149 of my colleagues know that this is the right direction to go.

Unfortunately, it is becoming all too clear that the fix is on. Just this morning, the Committee on Ways and Means chairman rammed a competing bill through his committee. Sure this bill fixes our problem with the WTO, but it only exacerbates the problems experienced by our manufacturing sector. They will tell you that the Thomas bill cuts the tax rate for manufacturing and production income, and it does; but it also includes a package of international tax provisions that only encourages companies to send more of their production jobs overseas. Sure we want to increase our exports, but I want those exports to be American products, not American jobs. The Thomas bill's focus on multinational corporations at the expense of our manufacturing workers is no way to restore strength to our ailing manufacturing sector. And it is no way to alleviate this country's unemployment problems, either.

When we consider these issues, let us remember that our unemployed workers are the true victims of our economic downturn. Let us keep in mind that they are desperately depending on us to help them. Let us not let them down.

OXI DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly to celebrate "oxi" day. The historical significance of this day and what it meant to the outcome of World War II cannot be overstated. By October of 1940, World War II had begun and the Nazi war machine was already in high gear. Along with Hitler's ally, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, the German and Italian forces were threatening the whole of Europe. European nations were bowing to tyranny and destruction as the Germans and the

Italians marched through Europe. Great Britain endured German's aerial bombardment, forcing Hitler to seek another avenue to subdue the British. Hitler intended to eliminate British operations in the Mediterranean in order to weaken their ability to deter German advances.

To achieve this, Hitler needed the Axis powers to strike at British forces in Greece. By conquering Greece, Hitler would gain access to an important connecting link with Italian bases in the Dodecanese Islands. This would give the Italians a stranglehold on British positions in Egypt where British forces were already facing attack from the Italian Army in North Africa. The British considered the defense of Egypt vital to Allied positions in the oil-rich Middle East.

On October 28, 1940, the Italian ambassador in Athens presented an insulting ultimatum to Greek Prime Minister Metaxas, demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece or Italy would declare war and invade Greece. Mussolini had given the Greek Prime Minister Metaxas 3 hours to reply.

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Prime Minister Metaxas responded with the now historic word "oxi," which means "no" in Greek. Italy then invaded.

It is important to note that in addition to Greece having a population seven times smaller than Italy, the disparity in their armed forces was even greater. Italy had close to 10 times the firepower of Greece in its army and navy and seven times the troops. Italy's large air force had total air superiority, since Greece had a very small defensive air force. However, despite their lack of equipment, the Greek army proved to be well-trained and resourceful. Within a week of the invasion, it was clear that Italian forces were suffering serious setbacks, despite having control of the air and fielding superior armored vehicles.

On November 14, the Greek army launched a counter-offensive and quickly drove the Italian forces back into Albania. The fighting continued for a few more months. In a last ditch effort to bring the war to a close before the Italians would be forced to ask Hitler to intervene, they launched another assault on March 12, 1941. After 6 days of fighting, the Italians made only insignificant gains, and it became clear that German intervention was necessary.

On April 6, 1941, Hitler ordered the German invasion of Greece. It took the Germans 5 weeks to finally end the conflict. This delay proved to be critical to the outcome of the war.

Due to Mussolini's humiliating defeat by the Greeks in Albania and Greece, Hitler was compelled to capture the Balkans, mainly Yugoslavia and Greece, thus delaying his Barbarossa plan to invade and capture the Soviet Union before the winter of 1941. The Greek resistance, both in Albania

and in the other famous battle in Crete, altered, favorably for the allies, his Barbarossa timetable by at least 6 months.

Perhaps most importantly, the Germans never gained the advantage against the British. Although Germany had conquered much of Europe, its inability to decimate British and Russian forces early in the war would eventually prove to be fatal. Thanks to the heroic Greek resistance and their countless sacrifices, the war tide had been permanently changed for Hitler due to the delay of this critical timetable.

Nearly one million Hellenes died during that time. That was 14 percent of the population in 1940. That is equivalent, Mr. Speaker, to losing 39 million people in this country today in the case of a war to defend our country.

The entire Western world, discouraged and fearful of the Axis powers and the growing ugly war, took hope from these incredible victories. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said of the Greeks, "Today we say the Greeks fight like heroes; from now on we will say that heroes fight like Greeks."

A very small number of those Greeks who fought like heroes are still alive today. Some now are American citizens. One of these heroes lives in my Congressional district, Mr. Demetrios Palaskas, who, along with others, has shared those traumatic stories of the mountain fighting by the rag-tag Greeks against such a powerful equipped invader. We all salute you, Mr. Palaskas, you and your many fellow heroes, for helping to keep the world free.

Mr. Speaker, "oxi" day is an inspiration to all those who cherish democracy and freedom. It marks defiance against terrible odds. As an American of Greek descent, I am proud to honor the memory of those brave patriots who fought for freedom for themselves and ultimately for all the free world on this important day.

CONCERNS REGARDING INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PORTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my deep concerns regarding the fiscal 2004 Interior appropriations conference report which was just reported out of the Committee on Rules, and in particular a provision relative to American Indian trust accounts. This provision would prevent the use of any Federal funds to conduct a complete historical accounting of Individual Indian Money Accounts as recently ordered by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, this provision should not be included in the Interior conference report because it was not included in S. 1391, the Senate-passed Interior appropriations bill, or H.R. 2691, the House-passed Interior appropriations bill. Furthermore, this provision completely circumvents the House Committee on Resources, which retains authority over all issues impacting Native Americans, including trust reform.

I would like to point out this is the not the first time language has been inserted into the Interior appropriations bill that would seek to legislate a resolution to the trust reform issue. Just this past July there was an attempt to add similar language that would have authorized the Secretary of Interior to unilaterally settle any claim relating to the balance of the individual Indiana accounts. That language was successfully stricken from the Interior appropriations bill before the bill was subsequently approved by the House.

At that time, members of the Committee on Resources were told that they would have an opportunity to come up with a legislative solution to the trust reform issue without interference by the appropriators. The Committee on Resources has begun a series of hearings on the issue, with an eye towards accomplishing that goal in this Congress. But it was envisioned that Congressional action would complement the court action and not circumvent it.

While this bill contains some provisions that are Native American friendly, if this language is allowed to move forward the negative effects will be felt throughout Indian Country. Prohibiting the Department of Interior to use Federal funds to implement the U.S. District Court's decision essentially permits the Department to do nothing to move towards settlement of the Individual Indian Money Accounts, and only further delays resolving a century old dispute.

Mr. Speaker, a fair and equitable resolution to trust reform can only be reached by having all the necessary stakeholders at the negotiating table. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to vote no on the Interior appropriations conference report, and I hope that this provision relative to the American Indian Trust Accounts can be stricken from the bill before it is finally sent to the President for his signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DO RIGHT BY OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the bloodiest day in Iraq since our forces took control of the country. These latest deaths of humanitarian relief workers, Iraqi police and another American serviceman illustrate the extreme dangers that continue to confront our military and the civilian population in Iraq.

When the President commands and Congress authorizes to send our sons and daughters, fathers and mothers into harm's way, then we have a special duty to take care of the families and the survivors of those servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support increasing the military death gratuity to \$12,000, restoring its tax exempt status and providing these funds to the families and the survivors of those Armed Forces personnel who have perished on or following September 11, 2001. I am very pleased that the House will vote on this urgent matter tomorrow.

As of this morning, 350 American military personnel have lost their lives in Iraq. At least 67 others have perished in Operation Enduring Freedom, mainly in Afghanistan. Among those who have fallen are nine men from Massachusetts, including Marine Captain Benjamin W. Sammis, age 29, from the town of Rehobeth in my own Congressional District. They range in age from 20 to 40. They served in the Army, the Marines and in the Army National Guard. They were privates, specialists, sergeants, lieutenants and captains, and they lost their lives in Afghanistan, the Philippines and Iraq.

Every day we awake to news of yet another American who has paid the ultimate sacrifice for service to our country. At such times, it matters not at all whether you are liberal or conservative, Republican or Democrat. In the face of such loss, we are united in sorrow and in our common need to express our respect and condolences to the families and loved ones of that soldier, sailor, airman or marine.

We are also united in wanting to ensure that the surviving family's most pressing needs are provided for. Currently these families receive only \$6,000 as a death benefit, and half of that is subject to tax. Mr. Speaker, that is simply wrong.

On September 5, I introduced H.R. 3019, to increase the military death gratuity to \$12,000, exempt it from taxes and make it retroactive to September 11, 2001. My colleague the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) recently introduced nearly identical legislation, H.R. 3566, and it is his bill that the Republican leadership will move to the floor tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of his bill, and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and others will be speaking about it later this evening. I am pleased that the House leadership has turned its attention to this matter, and I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of H.R. 3566 tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret to the Members of this House that the current military death gratuity needs to be fixed. Historically, the death gratuity has been tax exempt. But when Congress last increased the death benefit to \$6,000, half of this amount became subject to taxation. On several occasions Congress has attempted to rectify this mistake by passing the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act. Unfortunately, that bill remains stalled at the Speaker's desk.

While efforts are underway in the defense authorizations conference to double the death benefit and make it retroactive to September 11, 2001, only passage of H.R. 3566 can remedy the unfair tax burden on our military families.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will do the right thing by our military families and pass H.R. 3566. I would urge the House majority leadership to ensure that the other body also approves the bill and sends it to the President before Congress adjourns. Only if this bill becomes law can we guarantee that grieving families are not burdened with an unexpected tax bill.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not enough. I also call on the House Republican leadership to act now to ensure the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act be sent to the President so that other tax incentives that benefit our uniformed men and women, especially our Guard and Reserves, may go into effect.

It is astonishing to me that this Congress can provide billions of dollars in tax relief to the wealthiest in our society, but it fails to move this modest set of tax incentives for the men and women who put their lives on the line every single day in defense of freedom. So while I am glad that tomorrow we will do something positive, we still have much more to do before the actions of this Congress match its rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the record the names of the Massachusetts military personnel who have fallen in combat since September 11, 2001.

MEMBERS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES FROM MASSACHUSETTS KILLED IN ACTION OR DIED WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TO CURRENT DATE

(Information may be partial or incomplete.)

(Sources: CNN "Forces: U.S. and Coalition Casualties" and Central Command Public Affairs Office/U.S. Department of Defense)

(1) Staff Sergeant Joseph P. Bellavia, Age: 28, Unit: 716th Military Police Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, U.S. Army, Hometown: Wakefield, MA, Date and Place of Death: October 16, 2003 in Karbala, Iraq.

(2) Specialist Mathew G. Boule, Age: 22, Unit: 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army, Hometown: Dracut, MA, Date and Place of Death: April 2, 2003 in central Iraq.

(3) Staff Sergeant Joseph Camara, Age: 40, Unit: 115th Military Police Company, Army National Guard, Hometown: New Bedford, MA, Date and Place of Death: May 21, 2003 in an area south of Baghdad, Iraq.