

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

S. 2634, THE GARRETT LEE SMITH ACT

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to a tragic issue that faces our country today: youth suicide. On September 9th, the House of Representatives passed, with my full support, S. 2634, the Garrett Lee Smith Act. The Act was named in honor of Senator GORDON SMITH's son who committed suicide last year. This legislation establishes grants for suicide prevention efforts directed at young people, authorizes the creation of a technical assistance center to help local and state providers of suicide prevention programs; and establishes a grant program for suicide prevention programs on college campuses. I am proud to support for this bill and confident that it will make a difference in the lives of countless young people in south central Wisconsin and across our Nation.

We must do all we can to nurture and support our Nation's greatest asset—our children. Suicide is currently the third leading cause of death among teenagers in the United States. Too many young people think they are facing lives that lack hope and promise. We must do everything we can to help our youth through difficult times and teach them that life is indeed worth living. The Garrett Lee Smith Act will go a long way to help in that effort.

Youth suicide is at epidemic proportions. All youth are at risk. But I want to speak about a group of youth who are sometimes invisible, ignored, or worse—condemned for simply being who they are. I am talking about America's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth.

Allow me to tell you a true story. When the people of Wisconsin first elected me to Congress, I received a letter from an 18 year-old from a small town in southern Illinois—population forty-four hundred. This young man had a passion for public service. He wrote, "I was president of my graduating class, treasurer of the student council, and senior board member on a local community service youth group . . ." Here was a young man who cared about others, and who was already a valuable, productive member of his community. But then I read the next lines of his letter, and was devastated. It read, "I was following my dreams, until I realized that I am gay. At that point, I gave up."

Luckily, this story has a happy ending. Surfing the internet one day, this young man read an article about my being the first out lesbian elected to Congress. Thankfully he realized that he could be honest about himself as an openly gay man and still devote his life to public service. But, he went on in his letter to explain the real reason he was writing me. He told me that by reading about my story, "You not only saved my hopes and dreams, you saved my life. I have never told anyone this.

I was on the edge before I read that article. The pressures had built up in me to the point of suicide. I was going to give up, not only on my hopes and dreams, but on my life altogether." The pressures he was talking about were not only the difficulties that all American youth face today, but the steady drip, drip, drip of intolerance and discrimination he experienced as he tried to live his life honestly as a gay man.

That young man needed and did not have access to adequate suicide prevention services. According to the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth are four times more likely to report attempting suicide than their heterosexual peers. Along with the growing acceptance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans, the Garrett Lee Smith Act will help ensure that all young people, including our LGBT youth, have access to high quality and effective suicide prevention services.

None of America's youth should consider suicide as an option to end pain in their lives. I am thankful for the passage of the Garrett Lee Smith Act, and am committed to doing all I can to combating youth suicide.

THANKING MS. MEMORY SHERARD FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on September 30, 2004, we rise to thank Ms. Memory Sherard for outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. For the past 28 years, Memory has served this great institution as a valuable employee of House Information Resources (HIR) within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

While at HIR, Memory held many positions of increasing responsibility, requiring her to learn and support new and evolving computer technologies. Memory began her career in 1976 as a Production Control Specialist. She then progressed to Programmer Trainee, Coordinator for the Member Information Network (MIN) Support Team, and Messaging Systems Specialist.

As the House began to use personal computers, Memory supported the House community explaining the benefits of electronic mail and the Internet, and how these could be beneficial tools for Member and Committee offices. As technology evolved, so did Memory, mastering and supporting more than six different e-mail systems. Memory helped replace the Federal Funding Report (FFR) in 1981, now in its 24th year as Web based service.

Since 1993, Memory has been an invaluable member of HIR's Information Management directorate where she had primary re-

sponsibility for Customer Support for the mission critical E-mail, Enterprise Fax, and BlackBerry services. Memory has displayed great passion for her work and has always kept customer satisfaction as her highest priority.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Memory for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Memory many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1308, WORKING FAMILIES TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report for H.R. 1308, the Working Families Tax Relief Act. While I would have preferred a revenue neutral version of this bill that did not add to the national debt, this legislation does deliver continued tax relief for working families at a time when assistance is greatly needed.

Most importantly, this bill extends, through 2010, three family-friendly tax cuts scheduled to expire at the end of the year. These policies include continuation of the expanded 10 percent tax bracket, extension of marriage penalty relief, and expansion of the child tax credit. Without Congressional action, every American subject to the income tax, especially families with children, would face higher taxes next year. A tax increase is the last thing that my constituents need during these difficult economic times as Rhode Island's unemployment rate continues to hover above the national average.

This bill finally allows members of the military to use combat pay to qualify for the child tax credit. I have been pushing for this long overdue provision for more than a year, and I am pleased that Rhode Island servicemembers now will receive the credit they deserve while they risk their lives for us every day.

In addition, H.R. 1308 extends Alternative Minimum Tax relief, continues tax credits for renewable energy, and renews the Research and Development Tax Credit. These extenders serve a wide range of causes including promoting economic development and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

The bill is far from perfect. Much of the cost of this legislation comes from the expansion of the child tax credit to those who earn more than \$200,000 per year. However, the 9.2 million children in families earning under \$11,000 will still not receive the \$1,000 child tax credit that almost every other wealthier family will receive. There is still time to include these families, and I urge my colleagues to support tax relief for all Americans.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I am committed to sensible tax relief for the middle class, but I am also concerned about our national debt. With a national debt of more than \$7.3 trillion, each additional dollar the government spends or uses for a tax cut must be paid back by future generations. This bill adds nearly \$150 billion to the debt over ten years. I would have preferred that these tax cut extenders be offset by either reducing the tax cuts for the tiny fractions of Americans who earn more than \$1 million per year or by cutting federal spending. Unfortunately, the majority has done neither. This is not fiscal leadership, and this explains why a record surplus of just 4 years ago has turned into a record deficit today.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1308, the Working Families Tax Relief Act to provide needed relief to Rhode Islanders. However, I also urge a more fiscally responsible approach when dealing with tax cuts and spending to ensure future generations are not left with the bill.

IN HONOR OF FIRST LIEUTENANT
TYLER BROWN

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to honor a true patriot for his heroic courage under fire—Lieutenant Tyler Brown.

Lieutenant Brown, who was from Atlanta, Georgia, made the ultimate sacrifice on September 14, 2004, when he gave his life in service to our country while on duty with the United States Army in Iraq. His untimely and unfortunate passing serves as a reminder that freedom comes at a terrible cost, and that we all live in a free land because so many like Tyler have died to protect those cherished freedoms.

Although Lieutenant Brown was with us but for an all too brief time on this earth, he will forever remain in the hearts of the family and friends who so dearly loved him. The example he set by his service, by his devotion, and by his loyalty to his country will, like a beacon, shine a ray of light through the darkness to show the way for all those who follow in his footsteps.

I'm confident that, by answering his nation's call to service, Lt. Brown understood all too well that he, like so many other brave men and women, could be thrust into harm's way in the pursuit of peace and liberty and the protection of freedom. These are perilous times, and events taking place throughout the world, even within our own borders, have sharpened our focus on the grave dangers around us. Yes, Lt. Brown understood the nature of his service, and stepped forward proudly to represent the best that is within us. With great admiration and respect, we honor him today.

In spite of the tears that are flowing, and the sharp pain residing deep within us, may we be comforted by the knowledge that Tyler is now safely in God's hands, that he has been welcomed home with a warm, secure and loving embrace.

I offer my condolences to his family and friends. We all share your grief; we all mourn your loss. My prayers are with you.

JOE SKEEN FEDERAL BUILDING

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, last week the House approved H.R. 3734, which would designate the federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the "Joe Skeen Federal Building." Naming this building after our late colleague would be a tremendous honor to his memory and his family, and I strongly support this legislation to accomplish that goal.

Representative Skeen was a dedicated patriot who answered the call of his country by joining the Navy and the Air Force Reserves. He built his life on helping people, serving his neighbors and fellow citizens in the New Mexico State Senate before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a write-in candidate in 1980. He served in this venerable body for 22 years, the longest-serving Member of the House from New Mexico. He was respected by his colleagues and loved by his constituents for being honest, caring, and hard-working.

I had the privilege of serving with Joe for 20 years in Congress, and I am proud to have been his friend. I remember many conversations I had with Joe over the years. He spent much of his time on this floor sitting in the "Florida corner," delighting us with his wonderful sense of humor and thoughtful opinions. He is greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, Joe's death from Parkinson's disease in December 2003 may have closed the book on a life characterized by unflinching public service, but it did not extinguish his memory, which lives on in the hearts of his family, his friends, and the Members of this body. The "Joe Skeen Federal Building" will stand as a testament to the great New Mexican who served his constituents and the people of the United States so tirelessly for many decades. I thank my colleagues for honoring Joe by approving H.R. 3734.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CESAR HERNANDEZ

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Cesar Hernandez.

Cesar died on July 5th of this year at age 61. His contribution to New Mexico lives on. Cesar was publisher of the Spanish language newspaper, La Razon.

With a circulation of 17,000 copies, Cesar's newspaper is a major source of news and information for the substantial Spanish-speaking population of New Mexico.

This newspaper's importance to the population it serves is difficult to over-emphasize. We live in an era of news up-to-the minute and always available, but to a person who reads or understands primarily Spanish, the sources of information are often rare or incomplete. La Razon fills that gap and offers its readers valuable, practical information for their day-to-day lives.

Cesar's family will never forget the day they became New Mexicans, because it was September 11, 2001. Cesar started his newspaper one week later. Cesar logged decades of experience in radio and newspaper, and got his start in Chicago, Illinois. Today, his work goes on in New Mexico under the direction of his wife, Antoinette, and his family.

In 3 years, Cesar contributed much to his adopted state, New Mexico. As his daughter Leslie put it, "My father loved the newspaper." We're proud to recognize Cesar Hernandez, and we honor his memory and contribution to New Mexico.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WOMEN ATHLETES AT THE 2004 SUMMER OLYMPICS

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and its leaders, Congresswomen SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, GINNY BROWN-WAITE and HILDA L. SOLIS and myself, to honor the amazing achievements of the women athletes at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece. In particular, I want to celebrate the success of the United States Women's Soccer Team, who made us proud by winning a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics, beating Brazil 2-1 in overtime, on August 26, 2004.

I would especially like to recognize Julie Foudy and Brandi Chastain, our honored guests for a Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues reception today, Tuesday, September 28, 2004, celebrating the accomplishments of female U.S. Olympic athletes. As Captain and 16-year veteran of the U.S. Women's National Team, Julie Foudy is one of the most influential athletes in the United States. Through the end of 2003, she had started in 229 of the 239 games in which she appeared, including all six of the world championship events played by the U.S. women. And if that was not impressive enough, she scored in all four of the Women's World Cup tournaments. Her teammate, Brandi Chastain, another long-standing player on the U.S. Women's Soccer Team, provided one of the greatest moments in the history of sports with her penalty kick on the USA's fifth shot in the 1999 Women's World Cup Final at the Rose Bowl.

These women have become some of the most famous athletic role models on earth. They have taught our children that if you work hard and you believe in yourself, you can accomplish anything. Indeed, these women are helping to fundamentally change perceptions about athletics. It is no surprise that our little girls look up to these strong, motivated women for inspiration. But to also see little boys wearing jerseys emblazoned with the names of their favorite women players is a wonderful sight. The accomplishments of this generation of women athletes demonstrates the profound impact that Title IX has had on increasing opportunities in sports for women and girls. Title IX, part of the Education Amendments of 1972 requiring that public schools and colleges provide equal educational and athletic opportunities for girls and women, has unquestionably been a tremendous success. The members of