

Over the past 40 years, Lake Highlands High School has maintained a commitment to academic, athletic and artistic excellence and community service. Lake Highlands High School has produced 17 National Merit Finalists in the last 2 years alone, along with district championships in nearly every athletic competition offered.

Since I was elected to Congress, I have visited Lake Highlands High School many times. Clearly, Lake Highlands High School is an institution dedicated to offering students a well-rounded education and an opportunity to become genuine leaders.

As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I am very proud to represent Lake Highlands High School, it's teachers and it's students. I would like to offer my congratulations to their administrators, alumni, coaches, students, and parents on this momentous occasion and best wishes for their continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable group of young athletes. The University of Illinois Fighting Illini Men's Basketball Team has had a memorable 2003–2004 season ending March 7 with the winning of their first outright Big Ten Conference title in 52 years.

Having won regular season Big Ten championships in 3 of the last 4 years, the pressure was on this young team and first year coach Bruce Weber to continue this championship success. After starting the Big Ten Conference season with a record of 3–3 and losing its first two road games, some began to doubt that this success would continue. However, credit must be given to Coach Weber and his staff and the unbelievable determination put forth by a team with only one senior, as the Illini concluded their season by winning ten straight conference games, of which six were on the road. I look forward to more Illini victories this weekend in the Big Ten Conference Tournament and later in the NCAA Basketball Championship Tournament and wish them continued success.

Coach Bruce Weber, his staff, and the entire University of Illinois men's basketball team are a great source of pride for their University, the Champaign-Urbana community and the 15th District of Illinois. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Weber and the entire 2003–04 Fighting Illini Men's Basketball team.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND B. WINGERD, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Raymond B. Wingerd, who is retiring after 36 years of public service in the San Bernardino County Probation Department, helping those who have paid their debt to society return to a normal life.

Just months after his graduation from Up-land College, Raymond Wingerd joined the county probation department as a Probation Officer I, and with the exception of an 18-month stint as a teacher in Zimbabwe, has been with the department ever since.

Showing promise as a manager of others, Wingerd moved up to a supervising probation officer in 1972, and 5 years later to assistant director of the juvenile division, managing the intake, investigations and transportation sections. He was named a year later as Director of Special Services, overseeing the department's community resources, training, victim advocacy and work sentencing programs. One year after that he became director of the department's Verdmont Boys Ranch, a long-term program that focused on family counseling to help troubled youths turn their lives around.

In 1982, Wingerd was promoted to be the Division Director in charge of Juvenile Hall, three residential treatment institutions, clinical services and food services for 400 delinquent youth. By this time, he was managing 300 employees and handling an \$11.7 million budget. He became the Central Services Division Director in 1988, overseeing adult and juvenile court investigations and field supervision of 4,000 offenders.

Raymond Wingerd was named Chief Probation Officer for the county in 1994, overseeing a staff of 1,200 and a \$98 million annual budget, and has served in that position until his retirement. During his tenure, Chief Wingerd has led the planning and construction of new juvenile facilities in the county's West Valley and the High Desert—decentralizing and modernizing the department's approach to juvenile detention.

During his years in top management in the department, Chief Wingerd has helped create a series of youthful offender programs that have seen many innovative programs put in place in San Bernardino County. The department partners with county schools and the U.S. Forest Service to provide a 90-day intensive outdoor work program as an early intervention resource. The Youth Justice Center brings together schools, probation, public, and mental health and community-based organizations to provide a day-reporting program for youths on probation—a model used by the state legislature to create a statewide program. There are now 12 Youth Accountability Boards made up of citizens who help make dispositional decisions for first-time offenders.

The National Association of Counties gave national recognition to two projects created by Wingerd in the 1980s: A Regional Youth Education Facility with 40 beds, and a wilderness

diversion program designed to keep troubled youth out of the justice system.

Throughout his career, Chief Wingerd has been active in probation officer groups, serving as president of the Chief Probation Offices of California in 1998 and 1999, and most recently as a Probation Committee Member of the American Correctional Association. He is a board member of Everest College and San Bernardino Communities Against Drugs.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication of Chief Raymond Wingerd continues to this day, as he has agreed to continue his service as interim chief until a new head of the department can be recruited. Please join me in thanking him for his many years of public service and wishing he and his wife Linda well in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF K&A CRYLICS INC.

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of K&A Crylics Inc. The company will honor its customers, vendors and employees at a March 18 luncheon when it will also donate \$25,000 to five community organizations in Wartrace, Tennessee.

Brothers Kevin and Allen Wright founded K&A in their hometown of Wartrace in 1980. The company, a leading national supplier of acrylic and plastic store fixtures and displays, has grown from a two-man operation working out of an old store front to a larger, modern facility with 65 employees.

In addition to being a major employer in Wartrace, K&A improves the lives of those in the community in many ways. At the luncheon, for example, K&A will donate \$5,000 to each of the following organizations: Cascade schools, the Wartrace Volunteer Fire Department, the Wartrace Chamber of Commerce, the Wartrace Parks and Recreation Department and the town of Wartrace. The funds will be used for education, fire equipment upgrades, permanent historical building markers, upgrades to the Wartrace gym and renovation of the historic Wartrace rock jail.

I congratulate K&A for reaching this milestone. The company should be proud of its service to both its national customer base and the local community. May K&A's next 25 years be as prosperous and successful as its first 25 years.

REPUBLICANS HAVE FOCUSED ON RESULTS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to Congress, I have heard endless rhetoric from those on the other side of the aisle about the economy, tax cuts and the deficit. Unfortunately, when the political fog clears, it appears that our Democratic friends are more concerned with rhetoric than they are with results.

Democrats have come to the floor and spoken about an "exploding deficit" that will "haunt our children for years to come." One Democrat has even referred to the deficit as "immoral."

However, their record speaks much larger than their endless rhetoric. For example, the Democrats have proposed approximately \$890 billion in alternatives to major legislation considered on the House floor last year. This would have added almost one trillion dollars to the deficit. But before the chamber could clear, I am sure those Democrats were back on the floor yelling about deficit levels.

During the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Resolution, Democrats had another great opportunity to focus on the deficit and responsible spending. The Budget Committee proposed a one percent reduction in non-defense spending in order to reduce the vast amount of waste, fraud and abuse so prevalent throughout the federal government. This proposal did not receive a single vote by a Democrat on the committee.

Unfortunately, the deficit is not the only economic issue where Democrats are strong on rhetoric, but absent on results. This chamber has been the venue for many Democrats complaining about the President's tax cuts. Democrats have called the President's tax relief plan "reckless tax cuts for the rich" and even a "fraud and a failure."

Unfortunately, when addressing President Bush's tax relief plan, there are no facts that Democrats fail to misrepresent. The accusation that this tax relief is a tax cut for the rich is the most often and obvious misrepresentation of the facts. Democrats not only voted against this tax relief, but some have even advocated rescinding the President's entire tax relief package. Let us take a look at what would happen had those Democrats been able to rescind the President's tax relief.

Reinstate nine million low-income Americans back on the tax rolls.

Reinstate the marriage penalty.

Cut in half the \$1,000 per child tax credit.

Raise taxes on education savings by 75 percent.

Eliminate income tax deduction for paying college tuition.

Raise the capital gains tax by 25 percent and 50 percent for lower income families.

Increase the double tax of dividends by as much as 62 percent.

Reinstate the death tax.

Reduce the adoption credit and the dependent care credit.

Eliminate emergency tax relief to areas affected by the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Not only do some of our Democrat friends fight tax relief, they only propose one alternative: raise taxes on hard-working American people. Their talking points may avoid the facts, but raising taxes is the only economic policy Democrats have put forth. In fact, Democrats have proposed raising taxes ten times in the House and fifteen times in the Senate over the last year. This record speaks for itself.

It is important, as well, to highlight the reasons why their rhetoric about the President's tax relief has been proven wrong. Their claim—as I have mentioned—that the President's tax relief was only "for the rich." I would guess they assume that low and middle income families are not affected by the marriage penalty, small family farmers are not affected

by the death tax and middle-income parents are not affected by the adoption tax credit. It also appears that they have forgotten that the President's tax relief took millions of low-income Americans off the tax rolls all together.

Democrats have also claimed that the tax relief passed by this Congress will create no stimulus for jobs. It is clear that economic developments have silenced that argument, but it is important to highlight why. According to the Department of Commerce, three million fewer Americans would be working today if the tax relief plan were not signed into law. Gross Domestic Product would also be as much as 3.5 to 4% lower by the end of 2004.

How can Democrats claim that job creation hasn't happened when 112,000 new jobs were created in January and 366,000 jobs have been added over the past five months? How can they claim that the President's tax relief plan is not creating jobs when the unemployment rate has had the fastest seven month decline in nearly a decade? These are the facts and the facts seem to stand in stark contrast to the rhetoric we hear from the Democrats when it comes to economic policy.

Now the Democrats are fighting to allow the tax relief to expire. Although Democrats try to avoid it, this policy is a tax increase. If the 2001 and 2003 tax relief acts were to expire now, it would raise taxes by an average of \$1,544 for 109 million taxpayers in 2003, according to the Department of Commerce.

While rhetoric may have led some to believe otherwise, Democrats have clearly outlined a plan over the last year that would not only contribute almost one trillion dollars to the deficit, but would also raise taxes on the American families. These are the facts and the records certainly highlight those facts.

We are at a crucial point in economic policy—as spending-driven deficits and burdensome taxes are clearly affecting American families. This resolution will address the deficit, spending and eliminating waste, fraud and abuse. This stands in stark contrast to the reckless spending and taxing advocated by the Democrats.

As we debate the budget, I encourage my friends on the other side of the aisle to join us in reducing the deficit—not by proposing almost a trillion dollars in additional spending, but focusing on reductions in programs that are wasteful, duplicative or outdated. Furthermore, I encourage Democrats to oppose the large increases that only foster high deficits, while helping to reduce the burden of the tax code on American families—not by raising taxes—but through common sense tax relief.

Republicans have focused on results—the economy is rebounding, the trend of job creation is increasing, homeownership is at record levels and GDP and consumer confidence is steadily growing. I ask my Democrat friends to stop the rhetoric and begin focusing on results.

TRIBUTE TO SCANA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend SCANA Corporation, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in my State, on being

selected as the recipient of the United States Department of Labor's Opportunity Award. Each year, the Secretary of Labor selects one Federal contractor as the recipient of this high honor. It is given to the company which has most clearly exemplified that they have established and instituted comprehensive workforce strategies to ensure equal employment opportunity. On February 19, the Secretary of Labor presented this award to SCANA officials in what was a very impressive ceremony.

The nominees for the Opportunity Award must be Federal contractors covered by Executive Order 11246, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, and must have a spotless record of compliance with Federal law. All of them must demonstrate that they have developed and are implementing a multifaceted equal employment opportunity program directed towards the changing demographics of the labor force. I spent a lot of time, in my life before Congress, counseling Federal contractors in my State on the virtues of Executive Order 11246, and SCANA was often used by me as an example of how and why it could and should be done.

I am proud that my constituent, the SCANA Corporation, has continued to demonstrate a commitment to equal employment opportunity, and has achieved measurable results that have significantly enhanced equal employment opportunities for employees, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans. To win this high honor, a company must have strong core values to serve as the foundation for successful implementation of its equal employment opportunity policies in every facet of the employment relationship and throughout the company.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Department of Labor has bestowed this high honor on the SCANA Corporation, and ask that you and my colleagues join me in commending SCANA for its ongoing efforts to institute comprehensive workforce strategies to ensure equal employment opportunities.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY MANAGER
LARRY BLICK FOR HIS SERVICE
TO THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE,
MISSOURI

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Larry N. Blick's retirement as City Manager of Independence, Missouri. Larry Blick came to Independence more than a decade ago with over 30 years of experience in public administration, and in these past 10 years has partnered with Mayor Stewart and the community to bring growth and a new spirit to this "All American City."

As Independence City Manager, Larry inspired community trust and was instrumental in the passage of numerous measures necessary to the revitalization of Independence's infrastructure, neighborhoods and parks. An active member of the International City/County Management Association, Missouri Municipal League Board, and the Independence Council for Economic Development, Larry Blick has served tirelessly in prominent roles with these