

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the President signed the omnibus bill into law. H.R. 1943, the Amish Labor bill, a bill I have pushed since I came to this body, was part of that package.

The bill keeps in place common sense safety rules, but allows Amish teenagers to learn a trade after they complete their formal schooling, which is equivalent to the eighth grade, in an apprenticeship program. This is the way they learn to make a living.

After years of trying to win this protection for the Amish community to preserve their way of life, we have finally done it. The President's signature on this bill is a victory for the Amish, for religious liberty, and for diversity in America.

Centuries ago, these people came to America to escape persecution, to worship and live freely, and their life and customs have remained mostly intact since they arrived. They do not ask for Social Security or unemployment or anything from the government; they just want to be left alone to raise their children and make a living. Over the years we have stood up for groups like the Amish when the law has threatened their well-being and survival.

I applaud the Senate for approving the bill, I thank the President for signing it into law, and I thank all of my colleagues who helped us get this into law.

NEW BILL TRANSFORMS SYSTEM OF TAXATION

(Mr. FATTAH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I give notice to the House today that I have offered a piece of legislation that would have the Department of the Treasury analyze a proposal to transform our system of taxation and to move us away from this very complicated, burdensome form of taxation that now raises the revenues necessary for governmental purposes, to a transaction fee in which we would utilize the great power of our economy to tap into economic resources in a way in which we could transform our country, respond to the needs of all of our people in a responsible way, but to do it without the necessity to pry into the private lives of our citizens or to audit their financial behavior.

This proposal as we present it would have the Treasury prepare a study of this idea. It is offered after a great deal of research and effort. We hope that it will find in the workings of the House the kind of urgency that should be there, given our failure to respond to this problem in any real way for a very, very long time. It is the 90th birthday of the income tax in our country. It started at 2 pages, it is now tens of thousands of pages. Today we can begin not just to curse the darkness but, as has been said, light a candle.

HONORING THE HANNA BROTHERS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I received an inspiring letter from Jim Miles of Columbia, South Carolina, describing the valor of his grandfather, James Hanna and his five granduncles. Incredibly, these six coal-mining brothers from West Virginia served at the same time in World War II.

Roy Hanna, U.S. Army, 10th Mountain Division, fought in Italy and Germany, receiving two bronze stars. Fred Hanna, U.S. Army, 1st Armored Division, was captured at Tunisia and then lost 90 pounds through torture and imprisonment, until he was liberated by British troops. Bert Hanna, U.S. Army, Armored Division, fought at Okinawa. Carl Hanna, U.S. Army Air Corps, 9th Air Force, fought in Europe as part of the anti-aircraft battalion. John Hanna, U.S. Army Air Corps, 8th Air Force, fought in Germany. James Hanna, U.S. Marines, 6th Marine Division, fought in Okinawa as part of a mortar crew, but was quickly recruited as a sniper when battle commenced.

The Hanna brothers returned to Fort Jackson in South Carolina after the war, and John and James stayed to start their families in the Palmetto State. Even though all six brothers have passed away, their service will always be remembered as an enduring symbol of patriotism and duty. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Hanna brothers for their brave service.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

HONORING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOSS OF "COLUMBIA"

(Mr. FEENEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today we will pass a resolution honoring the great members of the *Columbia* crew and their sacrifice. As Lincoln reminded us at Gettysburg, such tributes are altogether fitting and proper. But also, as he observed, we can never fully consecrate times and places of sacrifice. That task is ultimately done by those making the sacrifice. Rather, we, the living, are tasked with taking increased devotion to the unfinished business for which the last full measure of devotion was given.

Both NASA and the President have demonstrated such increased devotion. The NASA team entered the crucible of self-examination and emerged with strengthened resolve and will. The President has charted a course for a reinvigorated human space program, breaking out of low earth orbit, returning to the moon, and then exploring our solar system.

I hope this House responds in kind. This resolution reassures the loved ones of the *Columbia*'s crew that last year's loss will strengthen this Nation's resolve to continue the journey of discovery in space. In the weeks ahead, let us carry out this pledge of increased devotion.

COMMEMORATING "COLUMBIA" CREW, HOSTING THE SUPER BOWL, AND SEEKING THE TRUTH REGARDING INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will look forward to joining my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) on the floor of the House, to celebrate and commemorate the heroic lives of the seven *Columbia* astronauts, our friends and neighbors.

Today I would like to cite two disparately different perspectives on some issues that I think are important. First, let me take personal pride in congratulating all of the law enforcement, community leaders, civic leaders, our past mayor, and our present mayor Bill White, for what has been touted beyond other issues as the best played Super Bowl in the NFL's history, and to congratulate Houstonians for being the most welcoming city that I think the Super Bowl has experienced over the last years of its history.

We are proud of what we did. We are proud of the family-oriented entertainment that we offered, and we look forward to extending an invitation back to all of you in years to come. Might I congratulate Bob McNair and all of the civic leaders for what they have done.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying I will continue my representation of important issues as I discuss the need for congressional hearings on seeking the truth about the vulnerability or nonvulnerability of our intelligence-gathering.

WELCOME TO THE ORANGE MEADOWBRITE

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the Chicago Botanic Garden is a renowned scientific research facility located in my congressional district and they have made a number of major breakthroughs at their headquarters.

Following a 7-year effort, our Garden developed a new flower called the "Orange Meadowbrite." It is the first orange-blooming coneflower ever produced in cultivation.

The new Orange Meadowbrite will have benefits far beyond the aesthetic. The "green sector" of the Illinois economy employs more people than the traditional agricultural commodities sector. Horticulture employs over 150,000

people with an annual payroll exceeding \$1.7 billion. With the fair market value of all assets directly associated with horticulture at over \$2.9 billion, the development of this new flower will benefit many Illinois families.

We want to especially congratulate Dr. Jim Ault, Director of Ornamental Plant Research at the Garden. He is the father of the Orange Meadowbrite whose scientific name is *Echinacea*, "Arts Pride," in honor of Art Nolan, Jr., a long-time benefactor of the Garden's research program.

We here in the Congress want to honor Chicagoland Grows, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and especially Dr. Ault for adding a new and beautiful flower to America's garden.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PRESIDENT REAGAN

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will adopt a resolution recognizing the 93rd birthday of President Ronald Reagan. It will take place this coming Friday.

As we in Congress today face difficult choices ahead in crafting a Federal budget, I think we would do well to reflect on the wisdom of the 40th President of the United States who, in October of 1964, said, "There can be no security anywhere in the Free World if there is no fiscal and economic stability in the United States." He said, "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem. And that 'the size of the Federal Government is not an appropriate barometer of social conscience or charitable concern.'"

But he also said in January 1981 in his first inaugural address, "It is not my intention to do away with government. It is rather to make it work; work with us, not over us; stand by our side, not ride our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it. A healthy economy built on a vision of limited government."

Happy birthday, President Reagan. May Congress honor your memory by honoring the principles of limited government in our day that you so tirelessly advanced in yours.

COMMISSIONER TAGLIABUE MAKES BAD CHOICE IN CHOOSING MTV FOR SUPER BOWL HALFTIME SHOW

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I know many of my constituents will be very pleased with this resolution coming before the House today regarding the *Columbia* disaster, but this issue has not been the one that my

phones have been ringing about. I have heard from many of my constituents who are outraged over the offenses that they were exposed to in the NFL halftime show and many of the commercials.

The NFL has promoted football, and the Super Bowl in particular, as a time for families to gather around the television once a year to see the NFL's best and, indeed, I was doing that myself. I had my 5-year-old son and my teenage daughter. Rather than being one of the NFL's finest hours, it was one of their most offensive.

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue issued a statement following the game calling the halftime show offensive, inappropriate, and embarrassing to the NFL.

Commissioner Tagliabue, when you hired one of the most offensive networks, MTV, to do the halftime show, what did you expect? MTV does not produce programming for family audiences. Indeed, my wife and I recognized that the halftime show was going to be offensive, and we changed the channel for 30 minutes.

Commissioner Tagliabue, wake up.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 2, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 2, 2004 at 2:05 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2005.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, Jr.,
Clerk of the House.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-146)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Budget I am proposing for 2005 is a reflection of this Nation's goals and purpose, and advances our three highest priorities. First, America will prevail in the War on Terror by defeating

terrorists and their supporters. Second, we will continue to strengthen our homeland defenses. Third, this Nation is building on the economic recovery that began in earnest in 2003 with policies that further promote growth and job creation. In addition, we will continue to strengthen the domestic institutions that best express our values, and serve the basic needs of all: good schools, quality and affordable health care, and programs that promote hope and compassion in our communities. In meeting these priorities, the Government must exercise fiscal responsibility by limiting spending growth, focusing on the results of Government programs, and cutting wasteful spending.

In 2003, America made great progress in the War on Terror. Afghanistan, which once was ruled by the repressive Taliban regime, now has adopted a new constitution, taking a fundamental step on the path to democracy. In Iraq, the remnants of the Ba'athist regime are being systematically rounded up, and Iraqis are assuming responsibility for their own security and future government. Libya has pledged to disclose and dismantle all of the regime's weapons of mass destruction programs.

These victories do not change a fundamental truth: Our Nation remains at war. In this war, which began on September 11, 2001, our citizens are the strategic targets of our enemy. We have responded in two significant ways: First, we have taken the offensive to hunt down the terrorists, deny them easy refuge, identify and seize their secret finances, and hold them and their sponsors to account. Second, we have moved to secure the Nation's homeland. In 2003, the new Department of Homeland Security began operations in the biggest reorganization of the Federal Government in a half a century. Over this past year, we have taken steps to reduce the terrorist threat to Americans here at home, and protect American interests overseas. This Nation has committed itself to the long war against terror. And we will see that war to its inevitable conclusion: the destruction of the terrorists.

Our Budget reflects the continuing importance of providing for the defense and security of the American people. We will continue to provide whatever it takes to defend our country by fully supporting our military, which is performing with great skill and honor in our battles overseas. We also are providing the necessary resources to our law enforcement and emergency personnel at home to meet the new threats posed by terrorists.

Just as we have taken much-needed steps to strengthen our national security, we have also pursued an aggressive agenda to promote our economic security. In 2003, we worked with the Congress to accelerate much of the tax relief that had been passed in 2001, so that Americans could keep more of their paychecks and so that businesses