

White. He was a great player—a magnificent player. Without him, my Packers would not have won Super Bowl XXXI. But, athletes come and go—even great ones. My friend, Reggie White, will be long remembered because he was so much more. He may have left the playing fields, but he never left his fans, and he never stopped caring for the needs of his neighbors. Reggie and his wife Sara launched Urban Hope in Green Bay—a program that helped start some 400 small businesses and create 1,100 jobs. Reggie believed in active faith—in putting his values and talents to work on the field and in the streets. We have lost a great player, but we have lost a greater man.

HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, education—and higher education in particular—is more important than ever to solving the most pressing problems of our communities and the country.

Let me give you some sobering statistics:

According to Nellie Mae, the average undergraduate student loan debt has increased the last 5 years from \$11,400 to \$18,900.

Today, 70 percent of federal student aid is made in loans; Grants account for only 22 percent of aid. Thirty years ago, student loans accounted for about 25 percent and grants about 70 percent of all federal student aid.

Seventy-five percent of full-time students now work to help cover their college expenses. Twenty percent of working students work 35 or more hours a week while enrolled in school full-time.

In 1975–76 the maximum Pell Grant award covered eighty-four percent of an average tuition at a state school; today it covers forty percent.

The generation often referred to as the “baby boom echo” will soon enter American institutions of higher education, resulting in record enrollments that will further strain the ability of colleges and universities to deliver a quality education to their students.

That is why I am introducing the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

It would make college tuition deductible, in conjunction with existing tax benefits for higher education. The proposal would further allow a family to deduct up to \$10,000 in tuition expenses. A family would be capped at deducting a total of \$15,000 in tuition expenses in one year if they have more than one child in college. In addition, if a family was ineligible for the Hope Scholarship (due to its income limitations), they would be able to deduct \$5,000 of tuition costs.

The bill would raise the income limits for eligibility for Hope Scholarships. Currently, the income phase-out on the HOPE tax credit is \$40,000 to \$50,000 for singles and \$80,000 to \$100,000 for couples. The proposal would raise the phase-out ranges to \$50,000 to \$60,000 for singles and \$100,000 to \$120,000 for couples, allowing more families to benefit.

In order to ensure that savings go to the intended beneficiaries, the bill directs the In-

spector General of the Department of Education to conduct an annual study to examine whether the federal income tax incentives to provide education assistance affect higher education tuition rates.

Access to an affordable, quality education is inseparable from our economic prosperity, national security, and civic health. We must do everything possible to support this and that is why I have introduced the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

RECOGNIZING MR. FELIX GALAVIZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the contributions of Mr. Felix Galaviz. Mr. Galaviz retired in June of 2004 after serving tirelessly for 30 years in the field of education.

Mr. Galaviz co-founded the Puente Project and is retiring as its Executive Director. Under his leadership, the Puente Project has been recognized by numerous organizations throughout the Nation as a model academic preparedness program.

After beginning in 1981 at Chabot College, the Puente Project has flourished and grown. Today it is conducted in over 50 community colleges and 35 high schools across the State of California. Under the leadership of Mr. Galaviz, the Puente Project has shown consistent results and helped students achieve their higher education goals.

Mr. Galaviz has used his wonderful ability to educate and counsel Latino youth to work throughout his career. Furthermore, he has strived to share that gift with others, often conducting presentations to help others learn how to counsel and mentor Latino youth.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Galaviz on his inspirational work. He was a priceless asset in the field of education. I know him personally and am very familiar with his work. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Chisholm charted a whole new course for black Americans. She was the first black woman elected to Congress and paved the way for dozens who came after her, including my mother, former U.S. Rep. Carrie P. Meek. Shirley Chisholm was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, a pioneer in civil and women’s rights issues, and was the first black of either gender to run for President of the United States.

Her determination and passion for the issues she believed in was always perfectly packaged by her charm and eloquence. The daughter of Caribbean immigrants, she never ceased to push for a better country for all Americans.

Congresswoman Chisholm is an inspiration to me and every Member of Congress. Her

legacy will never be forgotten, and I will always consider her path-breaking career as a motivation to serve the people of Florida’s 17th Congressional District as best I can.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF COL THOMAS W. SHUBERT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to take this opportunity to honor Col “Tom” Shubert for his 30 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment he served as the Chief, Congressional Inquiries Division, Office of Legislative Liaison. He managed, on behalf of the Department of the Air Force, all constituent inquiries from the White House, Office of the Vice President, Members of Congress and state and local governments.

Colonel Shubert began his illustrious Air Force career as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps at East Carolina University and was commissioned in 1974. Following graduation from Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1975, his operational assignments included piloting B–52 strategic bombers and T–39 airlift support mission aircraft both in the United States and in the Far East.

From April 1986 to April 1989, Colonel Shubert served as a Political-Military Affairs Officer on the Joint Staff at Headquarters, United States Pacific Command. He then served as the Assistant Air Attaché for Operations at the American Embassy in Canberra, Australia until June of 1993. Colonel Shubert was then assigned as a Congressional Inquires Liaison in the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of the Air Force.

In June 1995, Colonel Shubert entered Danish language training and then served as the Air Attaché at the American Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark from December 1995 to July 1998. He then returned to the Pentagon, where he served as the Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, until October 2000.

From October 2000 to June 2002, Colonel Shubert headed the Assessments Branch, Policy Division, Defense Technology Security Administration, which reviewed both Munitions and Dual-Use export license applications.

In July 2003, Colonel Shubert assumed duties as the Chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force. During this time, Colonel Shubert escorted scores of Members of Congress on more than twenty Congressional Delegations, in furtherance of Members’ oversight responsibilities.

Colonel Shubert assisted me and Members of the Committee on Agriculture during trips to Afghanistan, Iraq, and, last year, to Africa. He upheld the highest standards of professional conduct and his thorough and efficient planning assured that these trips were a complete success. He will be missed.

Colonel Shubert holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Honor Graduate) from East

Carolina University, a Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Arts Degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my Colleagues join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to COL Tom Shubert for his outstanding service to both the Legislative and Executive Branches and to the United States Air Force.

I wish him, his wife Kathy, and their daughters Victoria and Joanna, the very best as they face new challenges in the coming years. I will miss his unflinching good humor and hard work. Colonel Shubert has consistently conducted himself in a professional manner and therefore brings great credit to the United States Air Force.

REINTRODUCTION OF
LEGISLATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased on this first day of the 109th Congress to introduce several pieces of legislation that I have been pursuing over the years, and for which I will continue to advocate these next two years.

First, I am excited to again introduce legislation to help all American savers. My legislation, the Simple Savings Tax Relief Act of 2005, simply eliminates the taxation of interest earned in savings accounts, such as passbook savings accounts or bank certificates of deposit. I think at least some of this interest should be tax-free, as we have been working towards for other forms of non-earned income. This legislation would end a punitive tax, especially assist low and middle-income earners, and ultimately contribute toward the goal of encouraging individual responsibility and taking charge of one's own financial destiny.

Next, for years I have authored legislation to repeal the 2 percent excise tax on private foundations. The United States is blessed with a deep spirit of philanthropy, and charitable organizations serve the interest of both the individual and the community. Under current law, however, not-for-profit private foundations generally must pay to the IRS a 2 percent excise tax on their net investment income, which diverts from the purposes for which these foundations were founded. Optimistically, this body passed a reduction of this charitable impediment to 1 percent in the 108th (H.R. 7), but as it failed to become law, I am reintroducing this legislation and we shall try again.

Next, I am pleased to again sponsor the Health Care Tax Deduction Act of 2005. This would allow deductions for amounts paid for health insurance premiums and unreimbursed prescription drugs. This would provide much-needed relief to individuals struggling with the high cost of health insurance and prescription drugs through a tax deduction, and tax parity with those of us who have employer-provided tax-deductible health insurance. Expansively, this benefit extends to all IRS-defined health insurance premiums such as an HMO, PPO, a traditional indemnity plan, a new HSA, and also long-term care premiums. Right now, under the current tax code, in order to claim health care expenses individuals must file an

itemized tax return. My bill would simplify and extend this tax preference for all filers.

I also am reintroducing the Allied Health Reinvestment Act of 2005, along with my friend Dr. Strickland from Ohio. This important legislation offers incentives via scholarships and loans to encourage students and faculty to enter the essential but undersupplied allied health professions, such as physical, occupational, and speech rehabilitation, and medical and radiological technologists to name a few.

Also, with an eye towards the value of human life, I reintroduce my Human Cloning Research Prohibition Act, which restricts federal funding and encourages other nations to do so as well.

Finally, I am pleased to reintroduce a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of establishing a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) awareness month. I do this again with my friend Mr. Lewis of Georgia. In past Congresses, this bill has had tremendous support from Members and from the U.S. COPD Coalition, which comprises the patient and provider community. The House passed this legislation in the summer of 2003, and we started a bicameral Caucus in the winter of 2004 to advance our efforts. COPD is an umbrella term used to describe the airflow obstruction associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis. This is a debilitating disease, that is currently the nation's fourth leading cause of death, and I am proud to bring awareness to COPD.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on all these important pieces of business for the nation.

HONORING ALBERT ASHBROOK
FOR HIS SERVICE AS LICKING
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, Mr. NEY and I wish to join many of our constituents in Licking County, Ohio in congratulating Albert Ashbrook, who is retiring after more than 16 years of service as a county commissioner.

Albert's work was summed up best recently by a former colleague, who noted that Albert never shied away from the tough issues and was always looking out for the best interests of the people and county government. We would add that he did so not only with a plain spoken dedication to duty, but also a tremendous sense of humor.

Licking County has grown and changed for the better during Albert's tenure. He's helped with the creation of a Domestic Relations Court, a one-stop employment service and improved auto licensing and titling facilities, just to name a few of the projects in which he has had a hand. At the same time, he's always made fiscal responsibility a top priority.

Public service has been a way of life for Albert. Prior to his work as a commissioner, he served in various capacities with the Soil and Water Conservation District, and is a member of the District Hall of Fame.

Although he's leaving the commissioners' office, Albert is hoping to continue his community involvement as a member of the Licking County Planning Commission. In any event,

we know he'll still be there to offer guidance and advice to anyone with the good sense to seek it.

We are honored to have this opportunity to thank Albert for all his hard work, and wish him and his wife Shirley many more active years together.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS LONGHORNS ROSE BOWL
CHAMPIONS

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the University of Texas Longhorns, playing in the Rose Bowl for the first time in the team's 110-year history, made the New Year's Day game a memorable one.

Twice the Longhorns came from behind the Michigan Wolverines to win 38–37 as the clock ran out in what many contend was the most exciting Rose Bowl ever. UT Quarterback Vince Young rushed for 192 yards and four touchdowns, a Rose Bowl record. He also threw for 180 yards and a touchdown. This capped a 10–1 regular season record.

The University of Texas has a great football team, coached by Mack Brown. But it has a great academic reputation, too.

Led by President Larry Faulkner, UT recently was ranked as the 15th best university in the world by the Times of London newspaper. Among U.S. public universities, only the University of California at Berkeley was listed ahead of UT.

It's a pleasure to cite the strengths of UT. It's also a pleasure to represent such a premiere University in Congress.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF THE MINNESOTA STATE
CAPITOL

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor the 100th birthday of the Minnesota State Capitol. The Capitol first opened its doors on January 2, 1905 and on January 2, 2005, over 6,000 people attended the first of a full year's worth of birthday celebrations.

The Minnesota State Legislature first met in a log hotel when Minnesota was declared a territory in 1849. The first Capitol building was built in 1853, but burned in 1881. The second, built in 1882, was erected on the same downtown St. Paul site as the first. As Minnesota's population grew, officials realized that the building would soon be too small to house the Legislators and a new building would be needed. In 1895, Cass Gilbert from St. Paul was selected to design the new building. It took nine years and \$4.5 million to complete construction of the new capitol, which is still in use today.

Today, the Minnesota State Capitol building is more than just a place for the Legislature. It is a museum dedicated to preserving Minnesota's history. Its many priceless artifacts