

physics from the University of Maryland, where he also holds an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

In 1959, he went to work for the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL), where he developed a number of inventions dealing with the control of satellites. His work at APL has led to numerous awards, including the IR-100 Award which is presented annually for the 100 most significant inventions. He has won this honor twice; once in 1970 for a rechargeable pacemaker, and again in 1973 for a drag-free satellite.

Dr. Fischell holds nearly 200 U.S. and international patents. His inventions—which include an implantable insulin pump, a rechargeable pacemaker, a flexible stent for placement in coronary arteries, and a micro-miniaturized computer that can be implanted to prevent epileptic seizures—have changed the practice of medicine and saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

On December 19, the University of Maryland at College Park is announcing the establishment of the Fischell Department of Bioengineering and the Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Robert E. Fischell, an innovative American inventor who has made enormous contributions to medicine, space discovery and higher education.

COMMEMORATING THE JAVITS-WAGNER O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate the Javits-Wagner O'Day program (JWOD) on the service they provide to thousands of individuals.

The JWOD program is the single largest source of employment for individuals who are blind or have severe disabilities. This program employs more than 45,000 people. The JWOD program trains persons with disabilities to acquire job skills that will be resourceful in their everyday lives. With these skills and training, a participant in this program can receive wages and benefits thereby gaining a greater independence and quality of life.

In my district in Georgia, there is a JWOD program named Happy Hour that exemplifies the good work that this organization is built upon. Happy Hour employs 170 disabled individuals and gives them an opportunity to contribute to their communities. Executive Director Steve Smith and Community Relations Manager Bob Wilbanks lead an office of 90–100 hard working staffers along with many volunteers who are all dedicated to ensuring each person reaches a common goal.

Happy Hour has a working relationship with Robins Air Force Base. Through this relationship Happy Hour participants are able to help the government and save taxpayers money. A few of the projects that help Robins Air Force Base is Robin's Recycling, respiratory cleaning and repair, tool die numbering, and aircraft sorting. Though they may seem minor, without Happy Hour, workers who do these tasks at Robins AFB would have a much harder time operating.

CONGRATULATING WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise, today to honor an organization that has been a staple of empowerment for Washington, D.C. women who serve in the field of government relations.

This year is the 30th anniversary of Women in Government Relations. WGR is a non-partisan organization that educates and advances women in this field. WGR helps women be smarter, stronger, and more influential in the work they do.

Surprisingly, the field of government relations is fairly new to women. In fact, WGR was founded only about 30 years ago when women were struggling to network in a male-dominated field.

I honor WGR today because it provides educational and networking opportunities for its members and the community. These women serve our country by representing public interest groups; federal, state and local government; corporations; trade associations; and many others.

I am proud to say that I join many of my colleagues here in Congress as an honorary member of WGR. I rise to applaud WGR and encourage the organization to continue its important mission of advancing and empowering women.

Congratulations to WGR for its service to our nation for the past 30 years and for many more years to come.

HONORING DR. KATRINA POE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding family physician, Dr. Katrina Poe.

Dr. Katrina Poe, 35, is being recognized by Staff Care Incorporated, an insurance company that provides short-term coverage to physicians as "Country Doctor of the Year." This national honor is awarded to a "doctor who has dedicated his or her life career to serving rural communities. Dr. Poe, a family physician at the Greenwood Leflore Hospital's Kilmichael Clinic, also serves as chief of staff at the Kilmichael hospital.

Since fifth grade, Dr. Poe, a native of Kilmichael, Mississippi wanted to become a physician. She graduated from Kilmichael High School in 1988 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in biology from Mississippi State University in 1992. Dr. Poe attended medical school at the University Medical Center in Jackson, MS. Only two months after completing her residency training at UMC in June 2001, she began officially serving the people of Kilmichael where she spent several summers assisting Dr. L.C. Henison.

Dr. Poe, who was nominated by Nurse Linda Turner of the Kilmichael Clinic collected and submitted testimonials from patients to the

Staff Care nominating committee citing the physician's devotion to the town and its residents. She has an average patient caseload per week of 250, a successful practice of 5,000 patients and works an average of 80 hours per week. The nationally renowned "Country Doctor of the Year" award includes a signature plaque that features an illustration of a physician making his rounds by horse and buggy. In addition, Dr. Poe will be provided with a "fill-in" physician for one week at no charge.

Dr. Poe has received numerous awards and recognition which include being named Business and Professional Woman of the Year, Winona Times; Family Medicine Assistant Chief Resident, University of Mississippi Medical Center; CIBA-Geigy Community Service Award, University of Mississippi School of Medicine and; Cultural Diversity Academic Achievement Award.

Dr. Poe, a shining example of Kilmichael County's finest, has garnered the personal and professional respect of her community, patients and colleagues and is worthy of this auspicious award. I commend Dr. Poe, the "Country Doctor of the Year" and wish her continued success.

H.R. 4297, THE TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 4297, the FY05 tax reconciliation bill.

I do not oppose tax cuts, and in a more stable fiscal climate I could support reduced tax rates for capital gains and dividend income. What I do oppose is borrowing money to pay for tax cuts, and particularly for tax cuts that do not expire for another three years.

In 2001, I was one of only 28 House Democrats to vote for President's Bush's 2001 tax cuts that reduced marginal income tax rates. Since 2001, however, our country's fiscal condition has dramatically reversed course. In 2001, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicted that the 10-year budget surplus would be \$5.6 trillion. That projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion has deteriorated into a projected \$3.9 trillion deficit during the same period. In FY2005, the Federal Government ran a budget deficit of \$319 billion, the third largest deficit in our Nation's history.

Further, on February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$7 trillion for the first time in our country's history. On October 21, 2005, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$8 trillion for the first time in our country's history. That is an increase of \$1 trillion in our national debt over the last 2 years. It took our country 193 years, from 1787 to 1980, to rack up \$1 trillion in debt, and just under two years, from 2004–2005, to match that level of borrowing.

An \$8 trillion national debt comes down to nearly \$27,000 per person in our country, and that is simply unacceptable. The first rule of holes is that when you're in a hole and you don't want to go deeper, stop digging. It is now past time that we stop digging our country deeper and deeper into debt, leaving our

children and grandchildren to pay a steep price for the deficits and debt we are adding to today.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4297 extends several tax relief measures, including reduced rates for capital gains and dividend income, that I support and would vote for in a balanced, revenue neutral measure. I support: the saver's credit; small business and brownfields expensing relief; the Work Opportunity Tax Credit; the research and experimentation credit; deductions for higher education and classroom expenses; the exclusion for active financing income; and 15-year depreciation rates for restaurant equipment and improvements to leased property. Unfortunately, the Joint Tax Committee estimates that H.R. 4297 will cost \$56.1 billion over the next five years, and the CBO estimates that extending the dividend and capital gains tax reductions alone would cost approximately \$160 billion from FY2008 to FY2015.

Further, unlike the Senate tax reconciliation bill, the House version of this legislation does not address what is arguably the most significant looming tax concern for middle-class American families, namely the growing number of Americans who are forced to pay the alternative minimum tax (AMT). While reduced rates for capital gains and dividend income will not expire for another three years, AMT relief is scheduled to expire in less than one month, at the end of this year.

If AMT relief is allowed to lapse, the number of taxpayers subject to the AMT will increase from 3 million in 2004 to 21 million in 2006. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that extending AMT relief and indexing it for inflation would reduce federal revenue by \$191 billion over the next five years. This is an immediate problem that Congress and the Administration need to work together to fix in a responsible, bipartisan way, before millions of Americans are hit with large, unexpected tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with my colleagues in both parties to advance commonsense, bipartisan approaches to solving our country's fiscal problems. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to act as soon as possible, in a fiscally sound way, to prevent serious consequences for current and future generations.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, weeks after passing a spending bill that failed to reflect our national values, we are repeating our mistakes with today's tax cut bill.

We are once again "robbing Peter to pay Paul"—only this time we have picked the worst possible time to do so.

The holiday season is supposed to be a time for giving.

Only this year, it has become a time for giving primarily to the wealthiest 20% of American families.

Upper-income families will not lose much under last month's spending cuts bill.

But they will benefit greatly from today's tax cut package.

Conversely, lower- and middle-income families will suffer great losses under the spending cut bill . . .

. . . yet stand to gain very little from today's tax bill.

That's what I call "Scrooge-onomics."

We continue to dig ourselves deeper and deeper into debt.

The bill before us today comes with a price tag of \$56 billion, with no means to offset that cost.

And what do we get in return?

If you are not among the top tier of wealthiest Americans, not much.

Thirty-six percent of the cost of this bill goes towards extending reduced tax rates for capital gains and dividends.

That's \$20.6 billion dedicated to tax breaks that aren't even scheduled to expire until 2008.

That's \$20.6 billion that could be spent on education, worker training, affordable housing, or improving the quality of life for service members and their families.

It is fiscally irresponsible to spend \$56 billion we do not have on those who do not need it.

And it is unwise to further complicate an already complex tax code to do so.

That is why I am supporting the Democratic substitute to this bill.

This substitute still extends vital tax cuts but includes offsets to pay for the cost, taking the burden off American taxpayers.

It extends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the deduction of higher-education expenses.

It extends the research and experimentation credit and the expensing of brownfield sites.

It protects millions of California's taxpayers by extending sorely needed alternative minimum tax relief.

And, importantly for my district of San Diego, California, it extends a critical provision allowing military personnel to elect to include combat pay as earned income.

This allowance will expand the pool of armed services personnel eligible to receive the earned income credit, and it will even increase this credit for some military families.

The brave men and women who sacrifice time with their own families to protect ours deserve no less.

Although this bill would be out of place at any time of year, it is unconscionable during the holiday season.

A nation as prosperous as ours should never ignore its weakest citizens for the sake of tax cuts for the wealthy.

I do not believe this bill reflects our priorities as a nation.

I know it does not reflect my own values.

Yet it does represent the true colors of the majority party.

In the spirit of giving, I hope you will join me in opposing a bill that regards only the wealthy as worthy of receiving.

IN SUPPORT OF H.J. RES. 73, TO REDEPLOY U.S. FORCES FROM IRAQ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Joint Resolution introduced by Representative JOHN MURTHA. This Resolution should be brought to the floor because the time has come for a change in our Iraq policy.

I believe our military has done its job. They were sent to Iraq to depose a tyrant and free the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein's brutal regime. They accomplished what can be described as one of the most successful and well-executed military campaigns in history, defeating the Iraqi army in a matter of days and going on to hunt down and capture Saddam Hussein.

The issue before us is not "surrender" or "cut and run". Our troops have accomplished their mission. What they're now having to battle is an insurgency comprised largely of Iraqis who they were sent to liberate. According to our top military leadership, fewer than 7% of the insurgents in Iraq are foreign militants and the primary target of the insurgents are U.S. troops.

The violence is taking its toll on the Iraqi people, the vast majority of whom want a stable, secure Iraq free from foreign occupation. A recent poll taken in Iraq indicated that 80% of Iraqis want the American military to leave, and most chilling, 45% believe attacks against U.S. forces are justified. The daily toll inflicted on our military and our national purse (close to \$1 billion per day now), is simply unsustainable.

Congressman MURTHA has proposed a plan calling for the redeployment of U.S. troops consistent with the safety of U.S. forces, the creation of a quick-reaction force in the region and an "over-the-horizon" presence of Marines, and the pursuit of security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy.

Congressman MURTHA based his sober and professional judgment on the following:

The U.S. and coalition troops have accomplished all they can in Iraq and the American people have not been shown clear, measurable progress for the establishment of a stable and improving security in Iraq or of a stable and improving economy.

American troops have become the primary targets of attacks in Iraq, which is significantly impeding progress. Continued military action is not in the best interest of the United States, the Iraqi people, or the Persian Gulf region.

As Commander of Iraqi forces, General George Casey stated in a September 2005 hearing, "the perception of occupation in Iraq is a major driving force behind the insurgency."

The cost of the war to our country, and the burden on the troops to whom Congressman MURTHA has dedicated his life, is skyrocketing.

Congressman MURTHA knows of what he speaks. He is a 37-year veteran of the Marine Corps, a Colonel, the first Vietnam War veteran elected to this body and an unimpeachable, first-hand authority on the needs of our military.

Congressman MURTHA is one of the most decorated veterans in the Congress. No one