

cannot be tolerated. We cannot secure this nation without securing its borders.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
ALEX HUMEL McCANN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH  
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Alex Humel McCann, cherished son, brother, grandson, cousin, nephew and friend to many, whose unexpected passing has saddened our entire community. Although he will be greatly missed, Alex's young life had a profound impact upon the lives of countless individuals, in Cleveland, Ohio and around the world, and his inner light will shine on forever.

When Alex was in kindergarten, he journeyed with his parents and brothers to Botswana, Africa, to participate in a three-year mission with Habitat for Humanity International. In his 17 young years, Alex traveled to 17 countries and 5 continents. With an open heart, Alex absorbed the colorful offerings of every new culture and developed a profound sensitivity to human injustices and struggles that exist around the world.

An independent thinker and adventurous soul, Alex's passion and joy for life paralleled his passion for helping others. As a student at St. Edward High School, Alex was an active member with the Council on Human Relations, the Free Thought Society and his most cherished activity, the St. Edward Wilderness Retreat Program. His diagnosis of epilepsy at age thirteen did not lessen his enthusiasm and energy for living. He was an avid cyclist, golfer, hiker, and camper. He was a talented young actor who graced the stages of the Beck Center, St. Ed's and St. Joseph Academy. His energy and talent were consistently matched by his unique sense of humor, quick smile and kind heart.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Alex Humel McCann. I extend my deepest condolences to his mother and father, Joyce Humel and Michael McCann; his brothers, Nick and Aaron; his extended family members and many friends. Alex Humel McCann's young life reflected limitless joy and love and he will live forever in the hearts and memories of those who loved him most—his family and friends—from Cleveland, Ohio to Botswana, Africa, and he will never be forgotten.

HONORING RETIRING CONCORD  
TOWN SUPERVISOR MARK  
STEFFAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a man whose years of service, both as a councilman, and for the last four years as Supervisor of the town of Concord, have served his town admirably. Today, I want to honor retiring Concord Town Supervisor Mark Steffan.

Mark Steffan is someone who loved his town with every fiber of his being. A successful businessman, Mark was elected to the Concord Town Board and his recent service as Supervisor has come at a time when more people in Erie County and Western New York look to the town of Concord and its incorporated village of Springville as an outstanding place to live, work and raise a family. It is that way because of the dedicated service of public officials like Mark Steffan.

Mark Steffan and his family are moving on with a planned move out of Western New York. I want to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to commend Mark Steffan for his service to the residents and the taxpayers of the town of Concord, and remind him that local residents are better for the service he provided to town government.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.  
VICTOR A. McSWAIN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Victor A. McSwain was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Mr. McSwain began his 44 year career with the city of Mobile in his late teens. After serving in various positions, he worked his way up to the position of traffic engineer—a position he held for 17 years before becoming Mobile's director of transportation. Mr. McSwain worked for the city while obtaining two college degrees—a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of South Alabama and a master's degree in civil engineering from Penn State University.

In the midst of his intense professional schedule, Mr. McSwain also found time to serve in many community organizations. He served on both the city's Planning Commission and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. McSwain was a past president of the University of South Alabama Alumni Association, the Crichton Optimist Club, and the Order of the Inca, a local Mardi Gras Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Mr. McSwain will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 42 years, Barbara McSwain; his children, Angel Odom and Yvette Jones; and four grandchildren, Justin and Kyle Odom and Kelsey and Melody Jones—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO DORA BAKOYANNIS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dora Bakoyannis, Mayor of Ath-

ens, Greece, who was chosen to receive the 2005 World Mayor Award. This recognition is part of the World Mayor Project, which aims to bring greater attention to mayors who have well served their own communities as well as other national and international cities.

The World Mayor Project was launched in January of 2004 by City Mayors, an internet based platform designed to raise awareness about issues facing the world's cities. City Mayors was created by a group of economists and journalists from Europe, the Americas and Asia in April of 2003. From January to October of 2005, over 87,000 people worldwide voted in the annual internet based World Mayor contest.

After being elected in 2003, Mayor Bakoyannis had the great challenge of preparing the historic city of Athens to host the 2004 summer Olympic Games. Due to her outstanding leadership, Athens rose magnificently to the challenge and demonstrated the pride and honor that comes with hosting the biggest sporting event in the world.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Dora Bakoyannis whose work has not only brought physical transformation to Athens, but also a renewed sense of national pride for her citizens which reflects true leadership. We wish her continued success as she works to enhance the quality of life for all Athenians.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION  
URGING THE OBSERVANCE OF  
GLOBAL FAMILY DAY OF PEACE  
AND SHARING

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution calling for the observance of Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing.

Everyone in this body is concerned with finding a way to achieve peace. Peace in Iraq, peace in every corner of the world. Many of us have widely divergent views about how to achieve that peace—but I am confident—we all want peace.

We all have families back home who are longing for peace in the world and an end to the suffering caused by poverty, disease and hunger. Our friends, our neighbors, our parents and our children, all are hoping that this holiday season can bring more understanding, more generosity, more genuine friendship and caring among people of all faiths and cultures.

Perhaps we can't agree on military strategies, or budgets. Perhaps we will remain at odds on many matters when we come back after the holiday recess. But there's one matter on which the Congress agreed in 2000 and which I believe a unanimous Congress can agree upon now.

Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a concurrent resolution which calls upon all Americans to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing every January 1st. It asks that we use the first day of every year as a time to reach out to others in the spirit of peace, to share a meal, to help the needy at home and around the world.

This is a matter that once agreed on by Congress, can lead to greater understanding

and cooperation among political parties, faith groups, people of different races and economic class. In other words, it's something that can help us all—and that positive effect can begin during this holiday season.

In the year 2000, the Congress adopted a similar resolution asking the president to issue an annual proclamation recognizing this special day, and in 2001, following the tragedy of 9/11, the United Nations General Assembly followed suit. Heads of state in more than 20 countries have personally endorsed the initiative. However, there is little public knowledge that this important tool for peace already exists. Members of Congress can remedy that.

We all know how powerful an influence holidays have in our lives. Our earliest memories are often of family gatherings at Thanksgiving, or parades on the Fourth of July. Holidays teach us about the beliefs that our families hold, they inspire us, they reunite us and remind us annually about the ways in which we ought to behave.

As we approach the 20th anniversary next year of our national celebration of the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, I ask that the Congress take the time to ratify once again its recommendation that our increasingly interdependent world celebrate each year with a holiday of peace and sharing that belongs equally to all our human family.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans are troubled by our deteriorating image in the world, by the growing disputes among our elected leaders, by the dangers of terrorism and by the suffering of others, both at home and abroad. Yet they feel helpless to do anything about it.

Global Family Day provides a way in which every man, woman and child in the United States can help to reduce suffering at home, repair our damaged image abroad, and help us remember that in the end, all peoples belong to the same family.

I urge immediate action on this resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE HIGHLAND PARK'S TEAM TENNIS FOR WINNING ITS THIRD STRAIGHT TEXAS CLASS 4A DIVISION I HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Highland Park Scots Tennis Team for winning its third straight State Championship. On Saturday, November 5th, the Scots defeated New Braunfels High School 10–3 for the title.

This program and its coach have shown an incredible amount of character since losing to San Antonio Alamo Heights in the 2002 state finals. They have not lost a single match since then, winning a state record seventy straight team matches.

The team of twenty-five varsity players (thirteen boys and twelve girls) is so filled with talent that Head Coach Dan Holden had reserve players who are nationally ranked on the sidelines, a testament to the depth of this team. Coach Holden has not only prepared his players for the championship match, however; he has also helped them to seek higher education. This two-pronged approach to coach-

ing is what Coach Holden calls his “Win-Win” strategy. He kept practices shorter than normal so that the players could have time to work with their personal coaches to improve their abilities for U.S. Tennis Association Tournaments. These tournaments provide excellent recruiting opportunities for college scouts, in turn providing the exposure necessary for the players to impress scouts in the hopes of earning a college scholarship.

Proof of his success is evident. For example, Tyler Taransky, a senior at Highland Park, came back to Highland Park for his last year after a brief foray into the world of full-time competitive tennis and home schooling. As a result, he helped to lead his team to victory one last time before enrolling at Texas A&M, where he will play tennis next fall for the Aggies.

For his efforts, the United States Professional Tennis Association named Coach Holden the 2004 National High School Coach of the Year. He was also honored as the Dallas Morning News’ 2004 All-Area Tennis Coach of the Year.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Coach Dan Holden and the Highland Park Scots’ Team Tennis on their outstanding achievement. Their competitive spirit and domination in their field are truly inspirational.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES A. LEACH**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, reluctantly I rise to oppose a bill which has a number of provisions I support and others which I might have been inclined to back in a different economic and historical context. But this Congress jeopardizes America’s fiscal house as it continues to “pay” for a war with tax cuts. This is, after all, the first time in our history—and perhaps the history of the world—in which a government has sent soldiers into combat at the same time it has reduced the public’s tax burden. And just as war cannot be paid for with tax cuts, social balance cannot be maintained if the costs of rebuilding one region of the country devastated by hurricanes are coupled with the reduction of support for needy citizens in other areas.

I am an advocate of tax simplification—the replacement of a deduction-centric tax code with a simplified lower rate system. But I have doubts about taking the radical step of eliminating social progressivity with a flat, single-rate tax. The complexity of the current system is the result of a myriad of tax rules, not the fact that rates are slightly staggered. What has been missed in today’s debate is that the taxation of dividend income at substantially lower levels than earned income means that the working middle class will be taxed at much steeper rates than upper-income citizens. The approach on the table today will not only eliminate tax progressivity, it will create an inverted tax system, one that is profoundly regressive.

No tax system can stand the test of common sense if a high school principal, elec-

trician, or registered nurse are taxed at a higher rate than a billionaire who receives his income from dividends. Yes, there is an argument that taxing dividend income may, in some cases, represent “double” taxation, but this concern is not as compelling as many assume because the deduction-oriented tax codes allow many large companies to have negligible income tax liabilities. This is why, according to a University of Michigan study, many of America’s largest estates have been subjected to surprisingly little, if any, taxation in the accumulating years.

Priorities are askew. When Congress attempts to cover the cost of man-made wars and nature-made hurricanes while expanding tax breaks that disproportionately benefit higher income individuals, it is forced to limit spending on programs for low-income students and our needier citizens to keep the fiscal deficit from skyrocketing.

As long as this war continues, Congress is obligated to keep its eye not only on fiscal responsibility, but social justice. If it does not pay attention to fairness, the kind of internal strife that has broken out in recent weeks in France and the kind of internal division which was evidenced in the wake of Katrina in New Orleans will be magnified at great social cost.

A thrifter government may be a credible goal, but Congress is obligated to pay for whatever commitments it makes. I did not vote for the Iraq war primarily because of policy rather than expense concerns. But there is a cost dimension and the burden of responsibility for funding public commitments falls at this time particularly on those who chose to authorize this war. Failure to accept this responsibility weighs down the public balance sheet and pushes payment of debt obligations to future generations.

Accordingly, I am compelled to register my opposition to the fiscal irresponsibility implicit in this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHESTER DEVENOW

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to pay tribute today to Mr. Chester Devenow, an Ohio business and civic leader whose recent loss our community has sustained. Regarded as a “titan of industry,” Chester Devenow always took on broader missions to those beyond his board and firm. He located Sheller Globe’s headquarters in the heart of our community to strengthen it economically, and struck labor agreements with its employees that helped build our region’s middle class. He was highly regarded for his philanthropy and contributions to the institutions of our community.

His business acumen enabled him to create a Fortune 500 company, and he was truly a leader in industry. In his later career, his skills were often utilized in the mediation of labor-management disputes. Even after a well-earned retirement, Chester Devenow’s abilities remained valuable to area business leaders. His knowledge and institutional memory were well-regarded by his peers.

Upon graduation from high school in Detroit, he studied music at the Juilliard School. A