

H.R. 4297. The Republican bill provides tax cuts for the wealthy few in our society by slashing critical services for vulnerable Americans and adding to our already exploding deficit.

I am appalled that the majority party has slashed food stamps, health care and student loans for vulnerable and middle-income families to pay for tax breaks for the Nation's most fortunate. The top priority—63 percent of the spending—in the Republican tax reconciliation bill is to extend capital gains and dividend tax cuts from 2008 to 2010.

Forty-five percent of the benefits of this provision will go to millionaires. In addition, this bill, even combined with the devastating cuts, will add \$81 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years.

The Republican bill focuses on benefits for their wealthiest contributors and fails to address tax changes that are necessary for the middle class. This bill does not include a provision to protect families from tax increases from the alternative minimum tax. I supported the 1-year fix on the AMT that this House passed because this is a critical issue for families in my district. However, this provision should have been included in this reconciliation package and should have been a priority for this Congress.

In total, the Republican reconciliation package includes tax increases of up to \$3,640 for middle income families due to the alternative minimum tax, increases of \$5,800 per student for their college education, and a loss of access to health care and nutrition for many struggling families. It also adds to a spiraling deficit already projected to reach \$640 billion by 2015. At the same time, Republicans will provide an average tax break of \$32,000 to the wealthy few. This is an outrage and should be an embarrassment for this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, America can do better. Congress should put forward a budget that is fiscally responsible, prioritizes our families, and does not threaten our children and grandchildren's future by increasing the Federal deficit.

I urge my colleagues to reject this irresponsible, immoral budget plan.

HONORING A WORLD WAR II HERO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sherman Dickholtz, a World War II hero, beloved husband and father, and valued member of the Illinois legal community. Mr. Dickholtz passed away on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at the age of 80.

As a member of the 17th Airborne Division, Sgt. Dickholtz distinguished himself as an infantryman, paratrooper and parachute rigger. He participated in campaigns in France and Germany including Operation Varsity, the last full-scale airborne drop of the World War II. On March 24, 1945, he and the other members of the 17th parachuted behind enemy lines east of the Rhine River, and capture key points in order to assist the advance of ground troops. Sgt. Dickholtz was awarded the Bronze Star for gallantry and meritorious service.

Upon his discharge from military service, Mr. Dickholtz went on to graduate from John Marshall Law School, working his way through school by driving a taxi for the Vets Cab Company. At that time, veterans were not able to obtain taxi medallions, and Mr. Dickholtz participated in a protest "cabalcade" of taxis from Chicago to Washington, DC to protest. Mr. Dickholtz gained national recognition for his participation when his picture was published in newspapers across the country.

Mr. Dickholtz had a successful career as an attorney, and in October of 2005 was conferred the title of Senior Counselor by the Illinois Bar Association. He was also a member of and proctor for the American MENSA Society.

Mr. Dickholtz's wife Darlene was not only legal secretary and office manager for her husband, but also his best friend. Together they raised seven children in a very busy and loving home.

Mr. Dickholtz was the proud grandfather of 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His family has continued his legacy of service and success in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Dickholtz will be dearly missed by his family and community. I am privileged to pay tribute to this great American.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my vote against a democrat motion to instruct conferees on December 14, 2005.

Although President Bush and Secretary Rice have made it clear that under no circumstance will the United States use torture, I am also sympathetic to Senator McCain's wish to establish a clear set of rules to govern interrogations of persons under the detention of the Department of Defense. With this said, I don't believe it is beneficial to instruct conferees on an issue that is already under negotiations between the White House, Senator McCain and the United States House of Representatives. These negotiations could yield a much more favorable outcome than what Senator McCain originally requested and it also undermines the legislative process. However, if no compromise is agreed to, I would support the McCain language as our policy toward torture.

IN MEMORY OF MIKE KOUNTOURIS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on December 4, 2005, a dear and beloved member of the Jackson, Mississippi community passed away.

Mike Kountouris has been as much the landmark to Jackson as his famous restaurant

the Mayflower Cafe, where he had worked since 1935.

An immigrant from Greece, Mike and his family lived the story of America. They came to this land and worked hard to become honored citizens. Mike served in World War II, fighting in the United States Army in his home country of Greece where he was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart. He and his family—those before him and now his children—poured their sweat and passion for life into their family business. The Mayflower has been for generations a place where families and celebrities, politicians and journalists, the young and old have come for good food and fellowship. From first dates to wedding anniversaries, Mike made this a center of the Jackson community by making family the focus of his business.

Mr. Speaker, Mike began his journey in this world on the island of Patmos and we in Mississippi were blessed that he ended the journey not only in Jackson, Mississippi, but the hearts of his family, friends and customers. I take this time to remember Mike Kountouris and to remind my fellow Mississippians of the impact that one man can have on a community. He was a special man that we will all miss.

RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program, an incredible organization located in my Congressional district, and congratulate its founders, Jennifer Valoppi and Don Browne, for being named recipients of Governor Jeb Bush's Points of Light Award.

This award is the State's highest honor given to those who dedicate themselves to the Florida community through acts of volunteerism.

Since its inception in 1997, the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program has been a pioneer institution for inspiring at-risk young women to achieve their fullest potential through education and job training.

As a result of the organization's efforts, young women throughout our community can receive positive guidance and mentoring from professional women in South Florida.

The Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program is a perfect example of individuals uniting to improve the lives of our community's youth, and I am proud of all those who are associated with this remarkable organization.

HONORING MATTHEW SCOTT

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism of a man

named Matthew Scott who nearly 9 years ago performed an act of uncommon courage that saved the life of a young woman in my congressional district.

In August of 1997 a 15-year-old woman and her friend were out driving a truck near a very dangerous area in my congressional district called Deception Pass. The road was dark, and the two girls could not see the road in front of them. Leslie, the driver, yanked her steering wheel in the wrong direction and drove off a 185-foot cliff into the freezing ocean below. Her passenger managed to jump from the truck at the last second before it went over the edge. At the same time, Matthew Scott, a young Naval Chief Petty Officer, was driving by the location when he spotted a busted guardrail, and a hysterical group of people pointing to the ocean below.

Matthew does not consider himself a hero. On that night in 1997, he was just there for another human being—a young girl he had never met. He scaled down a treacherous, dark cliff with only a small flashlight to guide him. At the bottom of his remarkable 185-foot descent, he swam 30 yards out in strong tides and frigid water to rescue young Leslie. She was in bad shape. Leslie suffered a broken back, leg, and arm and had numerous cuts and bruises covering her body.

Because of his selfless, courageous heroics—Leslie is now 24-years-old and the manager of a local coffee shop. She is also the mother of a little girl and an upstanding member of her community.

Matthew Scott has continued to dedicate his life to one of military service. He is now a Lieutenant studying for his MBA at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California.

Those who know Lt. Scott talk about his everyday heroics. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am honored to have had Lt. Scott serve at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington state's 2nd Congressional District. He is the truest face of our U.S. Navy. Every day he honors what is described as the Navy's unofficial motto—"not self but country."

Lt. Scott has spent his life serving his country. That dark night in 1997 was no different. But that night he served his country and his fellow Americans in a personal and profound way. Off duty, he still put his own life at risk to save the life of another.

For this, I come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to honor him and call on all of my colleagues to look to Matthew's example to inspire us and spur us on to our own acts of selfless service and care.

Because of Matthew's humble heroics, Leslie is alive today.

Matthew is not just a good father—not just a good sailor—he's a good person. And he is a true hero.

ago, when the House was not expected to be in session during December.

RECOGNIZING JOHN CORRERO

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, for many who attend and serve Mississippi State University, the university is more than an institution, it is a family. Today I would like to recognize and honor one of the most dedicated members of that family who is retiring from work, but never as a Bulldog.

This summer, John Corroero retired from his position as Alumni Director of the MSU Alumni Association after serving the school for over 35 years and being associated with Mississippi State for over four decades.

He began his partnership with MSU as a student earning academic honors with three years as Varsity Football Letterman. John was President of the Campus "M" Club; President of the Kappa Delta Pi (National Honor Society in Education); and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership and Scholarship Society), Blue Key (National Leadership and Scholarship Society), Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, President's and Dean's Scholar and was chosen Mr. Mississippi State University. He earned a B.S. Degree in Physical Education from MSU in 1962 and stayed at the school to conduct graduate studies, earning a Masters in Educational Administration and Counseling in 1964. During that time he served as a graduate assistant and as freshman football coach at Mississippi State.

John served as Executive Director of the Mississippi State University Alumni Association since 1994. Previously he served as Associate Director of the Alumni Association (1975–1994) and Field Secretary of the Alumni Association (1969–1975).

John is a dedicated member of the community serving on numerous Starkville City and Oktibbeha County boards and organizations. He and his wife Gloria Collum Corroero are committed members of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Gloria, like their two children Kimberly Ann Fandel of Tupelo and Chris of New Orleans, is a Mississippi State graduate.

Mr. Speaker, John Corroero's legacy and dedication to Mississippi State University is a family tradition and an example for Bulldogs old and young. We are proud and thankful of his lifetime of service and Mississippi State University is a better institution because of his hard work.

I met Carroll Campbell when we were both elected delegates at the State Republican Convention in 1972 for the National Convention in Miami Beach. We were delegates when I hired fellow delegate Lee Atwater of Newberry College to organize college campuses to work with Carroll in the Upstate to elect President Richard Nixon.

In 1975, as Executive Assistant to Governor Jim Edwards, South Carolina's first Republican Governor, I worked closely with Carroll and accountant Wagdy Demian to reform the irregularities at the Department of Social Services. Our meetings were in hallways due to concern of monitoring in offices and Mr. Demian courageously provided whistleblower information despite an attempt on his life.

In 1985, I was the first State Senator to endorse his candidacy for Governor and I worked independently with State Senators Ryan Shealy and Warren Giese to recruit Congressman Tommy Hartnett for Lieutenant Governor and developed the Dream Team of two candidates with the highest integrity and ability.

In 1986, the gubernatorial campaign was a historic breakthrough which fostered a Republican majority in the State. Working with Bob McAllister and Warren Tomkins, I researched, developed, and publicized with State Senators David Thomas and Bill Branton, the sweetheart leases of Democrat officials with state agencies at "The Good Old Boys Tower." After the election, Governor Campbell renegotiated the leases, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

In 1990, I was grateful to work with the Campbell staff and irate Democrats uncovering purchasing irregularities at the State Department of Education, explaining the need to elect a new State Superintendent. Working with Representative David Wright, we were slammed as "Hatchet and Tomahawk" by Democrats, but the efforts prevailed to elect Barbara Nielsen as the State's first Republican Superintendent, who served with great distinction.

During the two terms of the Campbell Administration, I was honored to serve as floor leader for his initiatives in the State Senate. The highlight was to address the power failure of state government with restructuring. Working with Chamber leader Paula Harper Bethea, Democrat Lt. Governor Nick Theodore, Senator David Thomas and Senator Greg Ryberg, we were successful. Due to the House leadership of Rep. David Wilkins, we were able to pass a bill despite determined opposition who were opposed to the reforms and devoted to tarnishing the Campbell legacy of success.

The following obituary is a full tribute to Governor Campbell. This tribute ran in the The Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, on December 9, 2005.

CARROLL CAMPBELL, JR.

Carroll Ashmore Campbell, Jr., beloved husband, father, grandfather and former two-term South Carolina governor who led the economic and political transformation of his home state, died of cardiac arrest Wednesday at a Lexington health care facility after a five year struggle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 65.

Born July 24, 1940 in Greenville to Carroll Sr. and Anne Williams Campbell, he was a lifelong learner himself, educated in Greenville's public schools and graduated from the McCallie School in Tennessee. As a teenager,

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, my absence from the House chamber for today's votes and any held this weekend is due to my attending my daughter's wedding in Salt Lake City, Utah. The wedding was scheduled months

HONORING GOVERNOR CARROLL CAMPBELL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all South Carolinians have mourned the loss of former Governor Carroll Campbell. As a longtime friend, I especially appreciate his service.