

(ii) the likelihood of the applicant to remain in science, mathematics or engineering after the completion of the service requirement; or

(iii) other relevant criteria determined by the Secretary.

(5) AVAILABILITY SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—Loan interest payments under this Act shall be subject to the availability of appropriations. If the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is not sufficient to provide interest payments on behalf of all qualified applicants, the Secretary shall give priority to those individuals on whose behalf interest payments were made during the preceding fiscal year.

(6) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary is authorized to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(b) DURATION AND AMOUNT OF INTEREST PAYMENTS.—The period during which the Secretary shall pay interest on behalf of a student borrower who is selected under subsection (a) is the period that begins on the effective date of the agreement under subsection (a)(2)(E), continues after successful completion of the service obligation, and ends on the earlier of—

(1) the completion of the repayment period of the loan;

(2) payment by the Secretary of a total of \$10,000 on behalf of the borrower;

(3) if the borrower ceases to fulfill the service obligation under such agreement prior to the end of the 5-year period, as soon as the borrower is determined to have ceased to fulfill such obligation in accordance with regulations of the Secretary; or

(4) 6 months after the end of any calendar year in which the borrower's gross income equals or exceeds 4 times the national per capita disposable personal income (current dollars) for such calendar year, as determined on the basis of the National Income and Product Accounts Tables of the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce, as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

(c) REPAYMENT TO ELIGIBLE LENDERS.—Subject to the regulations prescribed by the Secretary by regulation under subsection (a)(6), the Secretary shall pay to each eligible lender or holder for each payment period the amount of the interest that accrues on a loan of a student borrower who is selected under subsection (a).

(d) APPLICATION FOR REPAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible individual desiring loan interest payment under this section shall submit a complete and accurate application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(2) FAILURE TO COMPLETE SERVICE AGREEMENT.—Such application shall contain an agreement by the individual that, if the individual fails to complete the 5 consecutive years of service required by subsection (a)(2)(E), the individual agrees to repay the Secretary the amount of any interest paid by the Secretary on behalf of the individual.

(e) TREATMENT OF CONSOLIDATION LOANS.—A consolidation loan made under section 428C of the Higher Education Act of 1965, or a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan made under part D of title IV of such Act, may be a qualified loan for the purpose of this section only to the extent that such loan amount was used by a borrower who otherwise meets the requirements of this section to repay—

(1) a loan made under section 428 or 428H of such Act; or

(2) a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, or a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, made under part D of title IV of such Act.

(f) PREVENTION OF DOUBLE BENEFITS.—No borrower may, for the same service, receive a benefit under both this section and—

(1) any loan forgiveness program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; or

(2) subtitle D of title I of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.).

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act—

(1) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education; and

(2) the term "mathematics, science, or engineering professional" means a person who—

(A) holds a baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree (a combination thereof) in science, mathematics or engineering; and

(B) works in a field the Secretary determines is closely related to that degree, which shall include working as a professor at a two or four-year institution of higher education.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006 and for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY WORK OF HAYS COUNTY CONSTABLE LUPE R. CRUZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated public service of Hays County Constable Lupe R. Cruz.

Mr. Cruz is a native of the San Marcos area. He attended San Marcos High School, and later Austin Community College. He began his career in public service in the military: he served in the United States Navy and Naval Reserve for 30 years, at the end of which time he received an honorable discharge.

Mr. Cruz began his career in law enforcement in 1981. From 1981 to 1988, he served his community as a Hays County Deputy Sheriff and Corrections Officer. He continued to learn and train in modern law enforcement methods, and holds both an Advanced Certification in Law Enforcement and the title of Licensed Peace Officer from TCLEOSE. In addition, he has received training in Criminal Law, Civil Law, and Criminal Procedures.

In 1989, Mr. Cruz was elected to the position of Hays County Constable for Precinct One. He has served in this post with distinction. He has also found spare time to dedicate to a variety of charitable community organizations. He is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, VFW Post 3413, and is on the board of directors for both the Southside Community Center and the San Marcos Area Food Bank.

Mr. Cruz has had a tremendously productive and successful career in law enforcement, and his community and county are grateful to him for his service. I am proud to recognize him before this body for all the good work he has done.

RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the people of Lebanon, who have stood up against fear and oppression, and have embraced the idea of a democratic future. Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese patriots have taken to the streets of Beirut to demand national self-determination and real democratic rule. Their courage has led to the withdrawal of Syrian forces, and created the opportunity for a peaceful transition of power.

Lebanon's history has not been an easy one. The 15-year civil war begun in 1975 produced national upheaval and chaos, and pitted ethnic groups against each other. It left around 100,000 people dead, and the country in total disrepair. The civil war ended in 1990, but Syrian forces continued to occupy Lebanon. Syria, one of the region's foremost supporters of terrorism, has been heavily involved in Lebanese politics, and has used fear and intimidation to suppress the voice of its people. The citizens of Lebanon have bravely taken a stand against terrorism so as to inspire a truly free, democratic society. Now that Syrian forces have begun to withdraw, there is an opportunity for Lebanon to create a social and political contract that establishes the rights of each individual regardless of religion, race, creed, or ethnicity. It is vital that Lebanon continue its progression towards a true democratic peace by holding free and transparent elections, on time, as scheduled, under the supervision of international observers.

The Lebanese people have recognized that there exists an alternative to the brutal, autocratic governments of the past. They seek a new beginning, and a new voice. Their courage has begun a process of reform that has sent ripple effects across the broader Middle East and around the world. I admire their courage to stand up against terrorism and peacefully demand change, and encourage my colleagues to voice their support for the citizens of Lebanon and recognize their historic movement towards democracy.

DEATH TAX REPEAL PERMANENCY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8, the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005. As Chairman of the Small Business Committee, I've heard horror story after horror story from small business owners who worry about the future of their small business because their heirs will not be able to pay the death tax and also continue the business. Why should they spend countless thousands of dollars for life insurance premiums, attorney and accountant fees just to plan to pay the death tax? Those monies are better invested in their small businesses. Raising the cap is just a band-aid that

postpones the inevitable decision to abolish the death tax once and for all.

Permanent repeal of the death tax will protect millions of small and family-owned businesses from the return of this devastating tax. I have seen the effects of the death tax firsthand in my district. Before I came to Congress in 1992, I practiced law in a rural county in northern Illinois. I was there at the estate sale when the mom and her kids had to sell off half the family farm because they couldn't afford to pay the death tax after dad died. All they wanted to do was continue on with their lives, work the farm, and put food on the table. But in their most vulnerable time, after they had lost their dad and husband, after they had spent their lives paying taxes, the government came to them and said, "We want more!" And their American Dream was crushed.

Despite serious estate planning efforts, 70 percent of small and family-owned businesses do not survive through the second generation and 87 percent do not make it through the third generation. In fact, 9 out of every 10 successors whose family business failed within three years of the owner's death said death taxes played a major role in their company's demise.

The death tax is one of the most archaic and destructive taxes to small businesses in our tax code. The death tax discourages savings and investment, reduces wages and job creation, and is a leading cause of dissolution for thousands of small businesses. This is an immoral tax. It's time to once and for all permanently do away with the death tax that confiscates the hard work and savings of the most productive and important part of the U.S. economy, our small businesses.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT
OFFICER DAVID AYALA

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David Ayala who gave his life in service to our country in Ghanzi, Afghanistan.

David, a graduate of New Rochelle High School, was a dedicated son, friend, husband and citizen. He knew before he graduated high school that he wanted to serve his country in the U.S. Army. As a young boy, David dreamt of one day flying a helicopter for the Army. Just three months after his high school graduation in 1998, David enlisted to pursue his dream, studying to become a helicopter mechanic.

After receiving 18 months of training in Fort Rucker, Alabama, David emerged as a Warrant Officer and began his deployment in Germany. David would later be joined in Germany by his loving wife Athena, who was also serving her country as a nurse in a military hospital. As Chief Warrant Officer, David was assigned to F Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Giebelstadt, Germany.

In March of 2005, David and his unit were deployed to the Middle East under control of Army Central Command as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. On April 6th of this year, David died when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was aboard crashed.

David was a true patriot who never gave up his love for the sky and who paid the ultimate

price for loyalty to his country. All Americans are truly fortunate to have had a person of David's caliber working to defend our Nation and keep it safe, strong, and secure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Warrant Officer David Ayala along with all of our Nation's other fallen heroes.

DEATH TAX REPEAL
PERMANENCY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8, the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005.

I was proud to support the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, which included a permanent repeal of the Death Tax. Unfortunately, due to arcane rules of the Senate, this much-needed relief for working Americans is scheduled to sunset at the end of 2010. Since then, my colleagues and I have voted three times to make this repeal permanent. I am hopeful that both the House and Senate will finally agree to permanently repeal the Death Tax and send this legislation to President Bush for his signature.

Unless we pass this much needed legislation, my constituents in the Sixth District of North Carolina will once again be subject to the Death Tax in 2011. Further, the sunset of this tax makes it difficult for business owners to make strategic planning and investment decisions that could have a major impact on the future of their businesses and loved ones. Finally, I do not believe that we should punish American families who have worked diligently to provide for themselves and want to pass along their success to their children and grandchildren.

It is my belief that few sections of the tax code are more unfair and hazardous to the economy than the Death Tax. Conceptually and in practice, it diminishes personal incentive to remain industrious. Furthermore, it encourages people to become less reliant on themselves and their loved ones and more reliant on a government that is on occasions intrusive, confiscatory, and ill-suited to help people.

After 20 years in Congress, I still believe that smaller government and lower taxes are the most effective economic policies. Eliminating the Death Tax will continue to restore consumer confidence, spur capital investment, and create new jobs which are critical components of economic growth, particularly within the small business community.

Mr. Speaker, I support a complete and permanent repeal of the Death Tax.

SMALL BUSINESS SPECTRUM
OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Small Business Spectrum Owner-

ship Opportunities Act." This bill would level the playing field in the acquisition of spectrum for telecommunications services so that small businesses and economically disadvantaged business owners could enter the communications field. As you know, since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act there has been an unprecedented growth on the Telecommunications sector, which has often been referred to as the telecommunications revolution. However, conspicuously absent from this revolution has been economically disadvantaged business owners. They have in essence been left on the fringes of this telecommunications revolution. There are many factors attributed to this lack of participation but chief among them is lack of capital. Because entry into the telecommunication field is capital intensive, many deserving, innovative, and well qualified small business owners have been denied entry into this vital sector because they lack access to the needed capital to compete with large companies. The problem of small businesses access to capital in telecommunications is greatly amplified because potential lenders to small telecommunications businesses cannot secure an interest in spectrum licenses as a condition of a loan. Given that new spectrum is auctioned and requires cash, this defect in spectrum financing means that small business are disadvantaged in their opportunities when compared with companies that have broad access to capital.

My bill would increase telecommunications ownership opportunities for small businesses, including small businesses owned or controlled by socially disadvantaged individuals, through Small Business Administration participation in a market-oriented restructuring of the credit aspects of Federal Communications Commission telecommunications spectrum auctions. The Act establishes two programs. THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECTRUM INSTALLMENT LOAN PROGRAM which permits an entrepreneur to apply for a direct loan from the Small Business Administration in order to bid on a spectrum license in an auction of the Federal Communications Commission. In addition, the SBA Administrator may make loan guarantees (guarantees on private sector loans) only for telecommunications equipment and working capital necessary to carry out the terms of the license to be financed. The second program is the TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCELERATED LENDER PROGRAM. In this program the SBA guarantees loans that are provided in the private sector. Guaranteed loans are to be used by entrepreneurs to obtain spectrum in auction or in secondary spectrum markets. An approved borrower is given a letter of credit by the lender (and SBA). The Federal Communications Commissions accepts this letter of credit in lieu of any up front payment or earnest money deposit required by Commission regulation. In addition, the SBA Administrator may make loan guarantees (guarantees on private sector loans) for telecommunications equipment and working capital necessary to carry out the terms of the license to be financed. The SBA Administrator requires, as a condition of any direct loan and any loan guarantee, that (1) any disbursement of a loan amount be fully protected by a secured interest in the proceeds of sale or other assignment of the license involved; (2) the loan agreement contain specific measures by which, in the case of default by the borrower,