

COMMENDING THE GLADES COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to the brave men and women of my district. Recently there was an outbreak of fires along Lake Okeechobee, Florida's largest lake. The fires started on May 27, 2007 along the Pierce Canal in Glades County, Florida. Boundary fires were created to protect the area.

Glades County EMS Director, Bob Jones, coordinated the mission and had everyone in place. Glades County Sheriff, Stuart Whiddon made his deputies available to help. Lighted signs were posted on the road and volunteers went house to house to warn people of the fires. The highway was closed and one family had to evacuate due to health reasons. No one was taken to the hospital or needed EMS assistance during the six days the fire burned.

Glades County is made up of all volunteer fire departments. Firefighters from Glades County Communities including Buckhead Ridge, Lakeport, Moore Haven, Palmdale, Ortona and Muse responded. These men and women were on site 24 hours a day. In order to protect the area, the volunteers inhaled smoke, and were surrounded by threatening flames. They were assisted by the following departments from neighboring Lee County: San Carlos, Port Authority, Bonita Springs, North Fort Myers, Estero, Fort Myers City, Bayshore, and Cape Coral. In addition, they were also assisted by the Brighton Seminole Fire Department.

I commend Glades County Manager Wendell Taylor, Deputy County Manager, Larry Hilton, and the members of the Glades County Commission, Butch Jones, Chairman, Paul Beck, Vice Chairman, Donna Storter Long, Russell Echols, and Bob Geisler for their presence and constant concern for the citizens of Glades county. I also commend Glades County staff who lent a helping hand.

Many firefighters lost days of pay in order to fulfill their obligation to protect the residents of Glades County. These brave men and women are a tribute to their communities and I commend them for their terrific hard work in battling these fires.

Glades County may be one of the poorest counties in the district, but the people who live and work there are what makes it rich.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOAN LOLMAUGH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Lolmaugh for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Clark County community through her work with Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Joan started her career with Clark County in 1992 as Manager of Clark County's Cultural Affairs Division. Over the course of her tenure with Clark County, Joan has overseen Win-

chester Cultural Center, the Clark County Museum and Aviation Museum, the Special Events unit which produces large community events such as the Renaissance Festival; the Summer Concert Series at the Government Center Amphitheater; the Galleries and Art Education Program and the Wetlands Interpretive Program, among other functions. Furthermore, Joan was appointed by former Governor Kenny Guinn to the board of the Nevada Arts Council, and in 2002 was honored by the Governor, receiving the Governor's Art Reward for service to the arts.

Prior to her time in Las Vegas, Joan served as assistant director at the Oregon Arts Commission and Director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. She was director and assistant professor of a graduate arts program at the University of Illinois-Springfield. She has served on the boards of the Western States Arts Federation and National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and is currently a member of the Death Valley National Park Advisory Commission. She has also been involved in a number of statewide arts organizations across the country.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Joan Lolmaugh. Her dedication to enriching lives through the arts is laudable and has enriched countless lives. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the St. Joseph the Worker Church, in Fallsington, Pennsylvania, for its 50 years of service and continued dedication to the Bucks County community.

The St. Joseph of the Worker Parish was founded by Archbishop—and future Philadelphia Cardinal—John F. O'Hara on October 1, 1956. A church that once consisted of a small group meeting in a local elementary school has now developed into a vibrant and growing congregation. In the spirit of St. Joseph, the parish church and school are committed to hard work for the betterment of their community—for the religious and laity alike.

Madam Speaker, a strong community can shape the lives of children and young adults—something I saw first hand growing up in a working class family in Northeast Philadelphia. The St. Joseph of the Worker Parish School educates 165 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students of the Parish community. Through quality education and service projects, St. Joseph students learn how to help others and become the leaders of the future.

Over the past 50 years, the parish has helped create a new St. Joseph's Home for Boys and the Martha's Cupboard food pantry. The food pantry's 12 hardworking volunteers service between 10 and 20 families each week with a 2-week supply of non-perishable food. The food is contributed largely from parishioners, in addition to school and community food drives. In conjunction with other organizations, parishioners package and deliver

meals, and purchase Christmas gifts for local needy families.

Madam Speaker, the St. Joseph Church and its congregation have long served as a model for community service, proving that the efforts of the few have profound effects on the many. I offer my congratulations as the parish welcomes Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and concludes their 50th anniversary ceremonies on Sunday, September 30, 2007.

The motto for the 50th anniversary events, "Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future," embodies the true mission of the St. Joseph the Worker Church. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the church's years of history and I thank the parishioners and clergy for their ongoing efforts to educate the youth and improve our society. I wish them another 50 years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF RETAIL DEPRECIATION BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to help our nation's 1.5 million retailers. The bill that I am filing today, along with my Committee colleagues Representatives PHIL ENGLISH, ARTUR DAVIS, and SAM JOHNSON, would provide a quicker cost recovery for improvements to retail-owned property.

Already, retailers or other commercial entities that rent, rather than own their property can recover the costs of improvements over 15 years. Owners of retail property, however, must write-off these same improvements to their property over 39 years. There is little reason for such a distinction; the wear and tear on the property is the same. In fact, studies by the Congressional Research Service, the Treasury Department, and other private economists have found that the current asset lives assigned to buildings and improvements are far too long.

Many small retailers own their buildings and are unable to afford the space in the more desirable malls. One of my constituents, Dave Ratner of Dave's Soda and Pet City in Agawam, MA, testified before Congress earlier this year on this issue. Dave employs 86 people in western Massachusetts at his four locations. He competes with the major pet care chain stores, which often lease pricey space in the malls. Because their property is leased, it is eligible for the quicker cost recovery, providing a significant tax advantage over Dave's shops.

Since half of retail space is owned and half is rented, Congress should try to create parity within this industry. Our retailers employ one in five American workers and generally must remodel their stores every five to seven years in order to keep up with customers' tastes and needs. These retail owners, the majority of whom have less than five employees, are often all you see along Main Street in the small cities and especially in rural areas. Ownership signifies a long-term commitment to the community. We should at least level the playing field for these community-based businesses.

We urge you to join us in supporting legislation to allow a quicker cost recovery for improvements to retail-owned property. It is one

way to help retailers remain competitive and stay on Main Street.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST CLEVELAND MOSQUE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize First Cleveland Mosque on the occasion of its 70th Anniversary, and to celebrate all their contributions toward creating a more diverse and inclusive Northeast Ohio.

Founded in 1937 by Imam Al Hajj Wali Akram, First Cleveland Mosque is one of the oldest Muslim institutions in America. The Mosque has faithfully guided Cleveland Muslims, holding fast to the ideals of peace, equality and social harmony central to their faith.

As our world struggles to understand its beautiful religious diversity, the First Cleveland Mosque, since its inception, has been a force for ecumenism, encouraging dialogue between faiths and reaching out to their non-Muslim neighbors. The result has been a Cleveland faith community rooted in understanding and mutual respect.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the First Cleveland Mosque on the occasion of its 70th Anniversary. May all their efforts toward ecumenism continue to create a more peaceful Northeast Ohio and world.

THE GREAT LAKES WATER PROTECTION ACT H.R. 2907

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join with Congressman LIPINSKI to introduce the Great Lakes Water Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation, supported by the Alliance for the Great Lakes, National Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, Great Lakes Aquatic Network, Audubon Society and more, would set a date certain to end sewage dumping in America's largest supply of fresh water, the Great Lakes. More than forty million Americans depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, food, jobs, and recreation. We need to put a stop to the poisoning of our water supply. Cities along the Great Lakes must become environmental stewards of our country's most precious freshwater ecosystem.

The Great Lakes Water Protection Act gives cities until 2027 to build the full infrastructure needed to prevent sewage dumping into the Great Lakes. Those who violate EPA sewage dumping regulations after that federal deadline will be subject to fines up to \$100,000 for every day they are in violation. These fines will be directed to a newly established Great Lakes Clean-Up Fund within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Penalties collected would go into this fund and be reallocated to the states surrounding the Great Lakes. From there, the funds will be spent on wastewater

treatment options, with a special focus on greener solutions such as habitat protection and wetland restoration.

This legislation is sorely needed. Many major cities along the Great Lakes do not have the infrastructure needed to divert sewage overflows during times of heavy rainfall. More than twenty-four billion gallons of sewage are dumped into the Lakes each year; Detroit alone dumped over thirteen billion gallons of sewage into Lake Huron in 2005.

These disastrous practices result in thousands of annual beach closings for the region's 815 freshwater beaches. Cook County beach closings nearly tripled from 213 in 2003 to 613 in 2004. According to the National Resources Defense Council, in a 92-day period from June 1 to August 31 in 2005, there were 87 days of beach closings in my District alone. This trend is echoed throughout the Great Lakes region and is one we need to reverse.

Protecting our Great Lakes is one of my top priorities in the Congress. As an original cosponsor of the Great Lakes Restoration Act, I favor a broad approach to addressing needs in the region. However, we must also move forward with tailored approaches to fix specific problems as we continue to push for more comprehensive reform. I am proud to introduce this important legislation that addresses a key problem facing our Great Lakes, and hope my colleagues will support me in ensuring that these important resources become free from the threat of sewage pollution.

HONORING HERB CROUTHAMEL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Herb Crouthamel for nearly half-a-century of service to the families of Bucks County. On Friday, June 15—after 46 years of driving a school bus for Central Bucks West and Our Lady of Mount Carmel schools—Mr. Crouthamel drove his final route. During those 46 years driving the bus and the 81 years he has been a member of our community Mr. Crouthamel has developed lasting, personal relationships but most importantly, he has protected our children.

Madam speaker, Mr. Crouthamel served our country as a member of the U.S. Navy in World War II and went to school on the GI Bill after his return. He started his route by chance, supplementing his work as a car salesman, but soon it became one of his life works.

Students, parents and school administrators all hail Mr. Crouthamel's devoted commitment to students. He impresses the students he drives by knowing all of their names and his record shows his dedication to student safety, both on and off the bus.

Mr. Crouthamel may be giving up the bus route but he isn't giving up his service to our community. He plans to continue work for his local country store and he will also volunteer at the Doylestown Hospital after his retirement.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Crouthamel's commitment to children and the community is an inspiration. His years of service come with pub-

lic acclaim for his attention to both safety and the lives of local families. On behalf of the community and all the lives he has touched and protected, I would like to thank Mr. Crouthamel for his life-long commitment to excellence and service.

INTRODUCTION OF CORPORATE ANTI-INVERSION BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation today to shut down a potential loophole in the anti-inversion provisions of the tax code. As many of my colleagues will remember, I lead the charge back in early 2002 to shut down the so-called "corporate expatriate" loophole. Corporate expatriates trade in their U.S. citizenship for citizenship in certain no-tax or low-tax havens through reincorporation or a corporate "inversion." These corporate expatriates often have little or no presence in these haven jurisdictions; some merely rent a mailbox to establish their new headquarters.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, some aggressive tax advisors were telling their clients that the climate was ripe for inversions as most stock prices were depressed. The only tax paid when a corporation departed was a tax on the gain of the stock or assets transferred to the new foreign parent company. As one tax advisor put it, "Maybe patriotism needs to take a back seat to improved corporate profits."

Despite the outcry from shareholders, taxpayers, and many of us in Congress, the leadership of the prior Congress fought enactment of a loophole closer. It was not until late in 2004, in the American Jobs Creation Act, that corporate expatriation was finally put to a halt. That bill used the same formula of my original bill—simply stating that if almost all of the shareholders of the new foreign company were the same as under the old American company and if the company had little real business in the host foreign country, then the corporate expatriate would be taxed as if it were still a U.S. company.

That new law put a chill on the market for corporate expatriation. However, earlier this year, one American company stated it was moving the headquarters of the operation to a foreign country with no corporate income tax. The company is not really changing its residency. Many have speculated that this is really a two-step process: move some administrative functions abroad to establish a minimal presence, and then give up U.S. corporate citizenship.

I think this would circumvent the intent of the original law and that is why I am filing legislation today to close that loophole. My bill would exclude any management or administrative functions, including the corporate headquarters, from the calculation of what constitutes substantial business activities in the foreign country. I am sure that many CEOs would not think it too much a sacrifice to relocate their office to the sunnier climes of some of these havens and thereby shave millions off of the company's tax bill. I urge my colleagues to support my legislation to prevent this type of tax avoidance.