

by irregularities and apparent political considerations. For instance, Russian officials have been quick to assert that certain individuals and factions outside of the Russian Federation must have ordered the killing, although they have presented no credible proof. The fact is that Poltakovskaya's work was extremely critical of corrupt and incompetent officials in the Russian government. At the time of her death, she had been working on a story about the torture of detainees in the jails of the pro-Moscow Chechen authorities.

The true instigator of this murder might well reside in Moscow, London, Grozny, or Murmansk. In any event, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated during a visit last week to Germany that the investigation is "on the right track." Let us hope that he is correct.

And let us also remember the sacrifice and the journalistic integrity of Anna Politkovskaya and her colleagues in Russia and throughout the world, who risk life and limb every day to discern the truth and bring it to their fellow citizens.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to comment on the status of the alternative minimum tax, AMT.

There is some good news regarding the need to do a patch to protect 19

million families. If you look back over the last few months, I have come to the floor several times to urge my friends in the Democratic leadership in both bodies to focus on this problem and get legislation ready. Earlier today, I urged the House to begin work on an AMT patch bill. I urged them to send it to the Senate so that Chairman BAUCUS and I will have a vehicle to deal with this pressing problem.

We have a few weeks to act before the IRS forms are finalized. After that time, there could be big problems for taxpayers and the Internal Revenue Service.

I was pleased to read in this afternoon's press reports that Chairman RANGEL is going to process an AMT patch bill.

I also want to commend our Finance chairman, my friend, Senator BAUCUS, for convening an informal meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss this pressing matter. I hope the Democratic leadership provides Chairman BAUCUS floor time to take up a committee bill.

On a related point, at a press event earlier today, in answer to a reporter's question, I indicated that we could look at measures to insure that certain high-income taxpayers who pay no regular income tax or AMT pay some tax.

I would like to elaborate on that comment.

I have referred many times to the IRS statistic of high income taxpayers who pay no regular income tax or AMT. The statistic is that, for the tax year 2004, IRS Statistics of Income reported that 2,833 taxpayers with incomes over \$200,000 paid no income tax. That same group paid no AMT as well. I will ask to have inserted in the RECORD a copy of that statistic.

The reason this group does not pay tax is defects in the AMT. What I was saying is that the AMT is defective in its original purpose. That is, to make sure that all high-income taxpayers pay some tax. I was not arguing for a tax increase on high-income taxpayers who are paying either regular income tax or AMT. I was arguing that, if anything, if the AMT's original purpose is to be served, then insure that those not paying ANY tax, pay it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have a copy of the statistic to which I referred printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TABLE 1.—RETURNS WITH AND WITHOUT U.S. INCOME TAX: NUMBER OF RETURNS, BY SIZE OF INCOME UNDER ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS, TAX YEAR 2004

[All figures are estimates based on samples]

| Returns by tax status, size of expanded income | Returns by size of adjusted gross income | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | All returns | under \$50,000 ¹ | \$50,000 under \$100,000 | \$100,000 under \$200,000 | \$200,000 or more |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| All returns | | | | | |
| Total | 132,226,042 | 91,302,396 | 28,166,641 | 9,735,569 | 3,021,435 |
| Under \$50,000 ¹ | 90,478,783 | 89,700,020 | 767,886 | 8,163 | 2,714 |
| \$50,000 under \$100,000 | 29,115,600 | 1,572,295 | 27,186,378 | 353,025 | 3,901 |
| \$100,000 under \$200,000 | 9,564,057 | 27,792 | 205,880 | 9,279,698 | 50,687 |
| \$200,000 or more | 3,067,602 | 2,289 | 6,497 | 94,683 | 2,964,133 |
| Returns with U.S. income tax | | | | | |
| Total | 90,876,672 | 50,767,865 | 27,371,775 | 9,718,430 | 3,018,602 |
| Under \$50,000 ¹ | 50,003,838 | 49,336,042 | 659,474 | 6,609 | 1,713 |
| \$50,000 under \$100,000 | 28,278,142 | 1,413,628 | 26,509,632 | 351,123 | 3,759 |
| \$100,000 under \$200,000 | 9,532,119 | 17,365 | 197,144 | 9,267,112 | 50,498 |
| \$200,000 or more | 3,062,574 | 831 | 5,524 | 93,587 | 2,962,632 |
| Returns without U.S. income tax | | | | | |
| Total | 41,349,370 | 40,534,531 | 794,866 | 17,139 | 2,833 |
| Under \$50,000 ¹ | 40,474,945 | 40,363,978 | 108,411 | 1,555 | 1,001 |
| \$50,000 under \$100,000 | 837,458 | 158,667 | 676,746 | 1,902 | 142 |
| \$100,000 under \$200,000 | 31,938 | 10,428 | 8,736 | 12,586 | 189 |
| \$200,000 or more | 5,028 | 1,458 | 973 | 1,096 | 1,501 |

¹ Includes returns with adjusted gross deficit or with negative expanded income.

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: IRS, Statistics of Income Division, June 2007.

RED RIBBON WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague, Senator MURKOWSKI, in cosponsoring a resolution commemorating Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week, celebrated October 23–31 of this year, encourages individuals, families and communities to take a stand against alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug abuse.

The tradition of Red Ribbon Week, now in its 22nd year of wearing and displaying red ribbons, started following the assassination of U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. In an effort to honor his memory and unite in the battle against drug crime and abuse, friends, neighbors and students from his home-

town of Calexico, CA, began wearing red ribbons. Shortly thereafter, the National Family Partnership took the celebration nationwide. Since then, the Red Ribbon campaign has reached millions of children, families, and communities across the country, spreading the message about the destructive effects of drugs.

In my State of Iowa, the theme for Red Ribbon Week is "Take a Stand—Be Drug Free." Schools and community groups across the State are organizing a variety of activities including pledges, contests, workshops, rallies, theatrical and musical performances and other family and educational events. These events are all designed to educate our children on the negative

effects of drugs and to promote a drug-free environment.

Research tells us that the longer a child stays drug-free, the less likely they will become addicted or even try illegal drugs. This is why it is so important to maintain a coherent anti-drug message that begins early in adolescence and continues throughout the growing years. Such an effort must involve parents, communities and young people. Red Ribbon Week provides each of us the opportunity to take a stand by helping our children make the right decisions when it comes to drugs.

In light of the growing epidemic of prescription drug and cold medicine abuse throughout the Nation, this year's Red Ribbon Week holds greater importance. I thank my colleagues for

passing this resolution to demonstrate our commitment to raising awareness about drugs and encourage everyone to make healthy choices.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I was unable to be present for a series of votes yesterday in relation to H.R. 3093, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008. I ask that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted in the following manner on each of these votes since my votes would not have affected the outcome of any of the votes:

On rollcall vote 366, the Ensign amendment No. 3294, I would have voted yea.

On rollcall vote 367, a motion to table the Ensign amendment No. 3295, I would have voted nay.

On rollcall vote 368, a motion to table the Thune amendment No. 3093, I would have voted nay.

On rollcall vote 369, a motion to table the Dole amendment No. 3313, I would have voted nay.

On rollcall vote 370, a motion to table the Vitter amendment No. 3277, I would have voted nay.

On rollcall vote 371, a motion to commit H.R. 3093 to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, I would have voted yea.

On rollcall vote 372, on passage of H.R. 3093, I would have voted nay.

A TRIBUTE TO ZACHARIAH "ZACH" TEMPLETON

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of Trooper Zachariah "Zach" Templeton.

My wife Joan and I were deeply saddened to hear of the tragic death of Trooper Zachariah Templeton while in the line of duty this past Friday in Adams County, CO, as he tried to help a motorist on Interstate 76.

It takes a person of great courage to become an officer of the law. It takes a strong, hardworking, and considerate individual. It takes a special someone who is willing to pay the ultimate price in protecting the safety of others.

Trooper Templeton was just this person. And unfortunately, Trooper Zachariah Templeton paid the ultimate price.

At age 27, Trooper Zachariah was the 24th Colorado State Patrol trooper who has died in the line of duty. Trooper Jason Lee Manspeaker was the last trooper killed on duty and died in a motor vehicle crash on January 23, 2001, while attempting to locate a vehicle believed to be associated with the "Texas Seven," who were wanted in connection with the death of a Texas police officer. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, more than 17,500 officers have been killed nationwide since 1792, including 238 in Colorado.

A native of Colorado, Zach joined the Adams County Sheriff's Office as a de-

tention specialist from May 2002 to July 2003, and then joined the CSP and graduated from the CSP Academy in 2003. According to CSP officials, "Templeton was best described by fellow troopers and supervisors as an individual with a big heart and willingness to help others. It is that desire to serve which led Templeton to respond to the call of a fellow officer. He served the citizens of Colorado with dignity and honor for four years."

Zach came from a family steeped in law enforcement tradition. Zach's father is a sergeant with the Adams County Sheriff's Office, and his great-grandfather was once county sheriff.

Trooper Zachariah Templeton was a father, brother, and a son. He is survived by daughter Samantha, parents Doug and Teresa Templeton, his brother Levi, and his girlfriend Holly Holsinger. Zach was well liked by his peers and was often very funny and a jokester with his fellow coworkers.

The State of Colorado and the Colorado State Patrol has lost a valuable member of its community, and we are all forever grateful for Trooper Zachariah Templeton's service and dedication to the safety and well-being of others. His service to all of us is highly commendable, and his contributions will be remembered.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Trooper Zachariah Templeton. May his bravery and unwavering sense of duty serve as a role model for the future generation of law enforcement officers. Thank you for your service, Trooper Templeton. Rest in peace, Sir. End of watch: Friday, October 12, 2007.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. During this month, numerous national service organizations, professional medical associations, and government and local agencies are working to promote breast cancer awareness, share information and provide access to screening services to women nationwide.

As you may know, breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women—around 180,000 women in the United States will be found to have invasive breast cancer in 2007. Furthermore, about 40,500 women will die from the disease this year. And right now there are slightly over 2 million women living in the United States who have been treated for breast cancer.

Mr. President, in my home State, of New Jersey, we have one of the highest incidence rates of breast cancer in the Nation, averaging approximately 8,000 new cases per year. New Jersey also has one of the highest morbidity rates associated with breast cancer—approximately 1,500 deaths per year. These statistics are painful. Mothers and sisters

and daughters are struggling to survive this disease across the country—a disease that is treatable through proper education, early diagnosis, and aggressive therapy.

Routine mammography screening is an especially effective means of detecting breast cancer at the earliest stages. That is why during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I urge women nationally to maintain a regular mammography schedule. When breast cancer is diagnosed at early stages, the chance of survival greatly increases. Aside from mammographies, the American Cancer Society recommends that women obtain annual clinical breast exams, perform monthly breast self exams, and obtain a risk assessment from a physician to maintain their own breast health, and to catch breast cancer at the earliest stage possible.

Although it may seem like breast cancer solely plagues women, there are documented cases, although rare, of male breast cancer. In fact, it is estimated that in 2007 some 2,030 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among men in the United States.

However, there is hope among these devastating statistics; with knowledge and early screening, many cases can be caught early, increasing patients' chances of survival tremendously. We need to increase our outreach to men and women so we can combat this devastating disease.

It is also important to remember that Breast Cancer Awareness Month cannot just be a 31-day event—we must take action every day of the year if we have a hope of increasing treatment and saving lives.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NASA AND THE SPACE AGE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 50th anniversary of space flight, the NASA space program, and its contributions past and present to the United States as well as to New Mexico.

Just over 50 years ago on October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite to orbit around Earth, which propelled the world into the space age. This era saw an unprecedented rise in scientific and technological developments benefiting mankind both on and off the surface of the Earth.

New Mexicans have a long history of contributions to NASA and to the U.S. space program, beginning in 1929 when the "Father of Modern Rocketry" Robert H. Goddard moved to Roswell and began his work designing and testing rockets. In 1946 the first ever rocket was launched from U.S. soil into space from what is now White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

Shortly after the Soviet launch of Sputnik, the United States launched *Explorer 1*, using Goddard's research on the Redstone rocket as the launch vehicle. Later that year on July 29, Congress passed the National Aeronautics