

for both the temple and for a permanent rabbinical residence.

On December 29, 1957, Temple Beth El formally opened its doors at a dedication ceremony led by the congregation's first spiritual leader, Rabbi Marc Samuels, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a Holocaust survivor. In attendance were the 52 original member families, the congregation's officers, and many other community leaders. At its inception the congregation chose to affiliate itself with the conservative Jewish movement. In 2000, in response to the wishes of its members, the Temple decided to become a reform congregation.

I am sure that my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating the leadership, congregants, and the greater Midland community as they continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Temple Beth El. Their rich history and commitment to service has greatly impacted the small, close-knit Jewish community in Midland. We all look forward to at least 50 more years of spiritual guidance and leadership.

#### TRIBUTE TO CURTIS STRANGE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a man who is a close personal friend of mine but more importantly is admired by fans of the sport of golf around the world.

I wish to highlight the career of professional golfer Curtis Strange, who on November 12, 2007, was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

I first met Curtis as an undergraduate student-athlete at Wake Forest University where he earned the prestigious Arnold Palmer Scholarship to play golf.

Curtis's college career was nothing short of remarkable. Many even consider the team that Curtis played on at Wake Forest to be the best collegiate golf team in U.S. history. In fact, *Golf World* called the 1975 Wake Forest team that featured Curtis Strange, Jay Haas, Bob Byman, and David Thore as "the greatest of all-time."

In 1974, Curtis won the Fred Haskins Award that goes to the Nation's top collegiate golfer and was awarded 1st Team All-American honors three years in a row.

In 1974 and 1975, Curtis led the Demon Deacon golf team to two, back-to-back NCAA titles and earned the individual collegiate title in 1974, the same year he won the World Amateur Cup.

Curtis turned professional after his junior year in 1976. Throughout his professional career and particularly in the 1980s, Curtis impressed PGA fans with his unmatched skills proving how excellent a golfer he really is, achieving feats that very few other golfers can say they have achieved. For instance, he posted 17 PGA Tour victories including back-to-back U.S. Open Championships in 1988 and 1989, becoming the first to do that since Ben Hogan in 1950–1951. He has been a member of five

Ryder Cup Teams—1983, 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1995—and in 2002, he was captain of the Ryder Cup team. And Curtis Strange's impressive career has not ended. He currently plays on the senior PGA Tour.

But perhaps one of the most honorable achievements of Curtis Strange was his gracious gift to Wake Forest University. He recently very generously established a golf scholarship fund at Wake Forest. This gesture should not go unnoticed. It shows that Curtis is the type of man who wants to give back to the community that helped him get to where he is today. He wants others to benefit from his success.

Curtis Strange is a good man with a good heart.

I congratulate Curtis on his induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame. I commend him for his outstanding achievements as an athlete, and I honor him as a person.

#### ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, last night, after months of political posturing, the Senate voted to prevent a massive tax burden from falling on 21 million Americans. Without last night's action, millions of middle-class Americans would have been impacted by the alternative minimum tax, a tax meant to impact only the wealthiest individuals. And while I believe the legislation we passed was not perfect, I would have preferred that we adhere to the pay-go rules that I voted for—it was a compromise I supported.

I must express my disappointment at what it took to get us here. There was no disagreement over whether we should prevent middle-class families from being hit by the AMT. So why would it take months to get this legislation passed? Sadly, the debate surrounded whether or not we should pass the burden of paying for this fix onto the next generation. Republicans wanted to borrow money to pay for this tax cut, while Democrats argued that we should be more responsible and not leave our children with the bill.

In addition to not offsetting the cost of the AMT fix, the Senate failed to pass a tax extenders package. In October, the House passed fully offset legislation that would both fix the AMT and extend certain tax provisions that will expire at the end of the year. These provisions—such as the research and development credit, the tuition deduction, and the deduction for teachers' classroom expenses—are vital to millions of Americans. The Senate had an opportunity to renew these credits and deductions in a fiscally responsible manner. I hope my colleagues will reconsider in the coming weeks and will pass a tax extenders package before we adjourn for the year.

Despite all this, we did the right thing in passing an AMT fix. The AMT was originally intended to prevent the wealthiest Americans from avoiding

paying any income tax. But due to inflation and various changes in tax law, the AMT had morphed and grown—without last night's action, nearly two and a half million families making less than \$75,000 would have to pay the AMT. That is well beyond the scope of what Congress intended when the AMT was put in place, and I am glad we could take the necessary step to prevent that from happening.

I hope my colleagues on the House side will move quickly to get this legislation passed. It is not perfect. Things around here rarely are. And while this bill is fiscally irresponsible, it is equally irresponsible to allow millions of Americans to be hit by a tax that was never intended for them.

#### REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE HENRY HYDE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of Representative Henry Hyde, who, as we all know, passed away last Thursday. I believe all those who knew Henry will remember him for his sincere moral convictions and his dedication to the country.

Representative Hyde was born in Chicago in 1924. He graduated from Georgetown University, where he was a standout on the basketball team that made it all the way to the 1943 National Championship game. He went on to obtain a law degree from Loyola University.

Henry was in the Navy during World War II, serving in combat in the Philippines. After the war, he served for more than 20 years in the Naval Reserve, eventually obtaining the rank of commander.

In 1974, he was elected to the House of Representatives where he would represent the citizens of the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois for 22 years. During his time in the House, he became known as a steadfast proponent of the rights of the unborn, authoring the Hyde Amendment, which, to this day, ensures that Federal taxpayer funds are not used in the performance of abortions. He was also a stalwart supporter of our Nation's military and firm believer in the need to uphold the rule of law.

Henry and I had the distinct privilege of having our chairmanships of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees overlap for a substantial period of time. We worked together on numerous pieces of legislation and I always enjoyed the passion and energy he brought to every issue. Henry was a very capable legislator and a man of deep convictions. Last month, President Bush honored Representative Hyde by awarding him our Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. During the ceremony, which Henry could not attend due to his declining health, the President described Henry as a "powerful defender of life, a leading advocate for

a strong national defense, and an unwavering voice for liberty, democracy, and free enterprise around the world."

While there were times that Representative Hyde found himself in the middle of divisive and fiercely partisan debates, I don't think that anyone would doubt that he always sought to stand behind his principles and to do what he believed was best for our country. I want to express my deepest condolences to Representative Hyde's family and my thanks for his years of service to our great Nation. He will be sorely missed.

#### REMEMBERING UTAH SENATOR ED MAYNE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of Utah State Senator Ed Mayne, who, after a 9-month battle with lung cancer, passed away on the morning of Sunday, November 25. I speak on behalf of many citizens of my State who, over the years, had grown to respect Senator Mayne's support for American workers and his dedication to the State of Utah.

Senator Mayne was born in Magna, UT, in 1945. He graduated from Granger High School in West Valley City and played football for 2 years at Snow College in Ephraim, UT. In the mid-1960s, he got a job working on the track gang for Kennecott Copper in the Bingham Canyon mine. It was then that Senator Mayne became involved in organized labor.

In his early years at Kennecott, he became active in the local chapter of the United Steel Workers of America, quickly becoming the president of Local 485. In 1977, he became president of the entire chapter and, later that year, at the age of 32, he was named president of the AFL-CIO of Utah. He was, at that time, the youngest AFL-CIO chapter president in the country.

In 1994, Ed was elected to serve in the Utah State senate and was in the midst of his fourth term when he died. Throughout his time in the senate, he remained dedicated to improving the lives of workers and, while he had strong personal ties to organized labor, he was committed to serving both union and nonunion workers alike. He also devoted himself to serving poor people in Utah, working to, among other things, maintain State Medicaid benefits and to protect low-income borrowers from the exploitation of predatory lenders.

Ed Mayne was somewhat of an anomaly in Utah. He was a tried and true Democrat in one of the most Republican States in the country. However, even the most conservative Utah Republicans never doubted Ed's convictions, even when we disagreed with his position on certain issues. He left an indelible mark on the State of Utah and was a good example for all of us, Republicans and Democrats, who aspire to serve the public.

I had known Senator Mayne for his entire career in the Utah State senate.

We disagreed with each other on many occasions, but there was never any animosity or hatred, just respect and friendship. We also agreed on several things and I cherished the opportunities I had to talk to him about pressing matters facing the State of Utah and sharing ideas of how to fix them.

The sentiments shared at Ed's funeral summarize our relationship very well when the eulogizer mentioned that Ed and I were very close friends and we liked each other very much. That is truly the way I felt about Ed.

I express my deepest condolences to Senator Mayne's family and my thanks for his years of service to the great State of Utah. I am grateful to have known such an outstanding public servant.

#### PASSAGE OF VIRGINIA TECH HOKIE SPIRIT MEMORIAL FUND

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the families who lost loved ones and to those who suffered injuries as consequence of the horrific shootings that claimed 32 innocent lives on April 16, 2007, on the campus of Virginia Tech. Having traveled to Virginia Tech the day after the shootings, I joined with the families and campus community in mourning. It is a memory that I carry with me to this day. We all greatly admire the ability of those who lost loved ones, and those who themselves were injured, to come together to support each other.

In the aftermath of that tragic day, over 20,000 individuals and groups across the country demonstrated their overwhelming support for the victims and their families with generous financial donations that totaled approximately \$8.5 million. The Virginia Tech administration established the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund within the Virginia Tech Foundation to accept these charitable contributions. Indeed, all of America can take pride in this outpouring of sympathy and support.

On October 30, 2007, the University officially distributed these funds to the 79 families and individuals in accordance with the protocols established by the Fund. While no amount of money can truly compensate for the loss of life or limb, these payments provide both the families of the deceased and the injured survivors with some financial resources to help, in some modest way.

Unfortunately, Federal law was not clear as to whether these payments are subject to federal taxation. Congress recognized this uncertainty and this week expeditiously passed clarifying legislation that I sponsored in the Senate along with Senator WEBB ensuring that these payments are exempt from federal taxation. The House measure was introduced by Representatives BOUCHER and GOODLATTE. Having overwhelmingly passed both Houses of Congress, the bill will now be sent to the President with every expectation to be signed into law.

Passage of this legislation could not have occurred without the support of several key groups. This October, family members and victims came to Capitol Hill to discuss the tragic day of April 16 and ways we could help prevent such events from taking place in the future. Later, I learned of the plans to distribute payments from the Fund to these families and victims. The administration of Virginia Tech along with some family members shared with my office in a very solemn and respectful manner the tax uncertainty associated with the Hokie Fund payments. These same concerns were echoed by accountants in the community who had volunteered their time to assist these families and victims.

Having learned of this unfortunate tax predicament, my colleagues and I in Congress responded accordingly with swift introduction and consideration of legislation to ensure that we provide assistance to the families and victims in overcoming this horrific tragedy. Members and their staffs worked extremely hard to obtain speedy passage of this legislation, and I rise today to thank everyone who made enactment of this legislation possible.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING FRANK STILWELL III

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Frank Stilwell III, a great Ohioan and a great American. Despite losing his eyesight at age 7, Frank never accepted failure or special treatment. It is this unwavering drive that led him from the Kettering Public School District near Dayton, OH, to Georgetown Law School and eventually to the Federal Communications Commission, where he served as a Senior Staff Attorney in the Commercial Wireless Division. While at the FCC, Frank worked closely with tribal groups in Alaska to ensure cell phone towers did not blight sacred burial grounds.

A longtime amateur radio enthusiast—in his youth he helped found the Far Out Amateur Radio Club in Dayton, OH—and an avid reader—often borrowing from the audio and Braille collections at the Arlington Public Library in Virginia—Frank was a happy, active, and passionate man, which is why his unexpected death last month at the age of 50 is so tragic.

For me, Frank's passion and drive in the face of adversity is a reminder of what we are all capable of, and I hope this life lesson—Frank's lesson to us—is not soon forgotten.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6) to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in