

8 years as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County. As the first African American woman elected from Ohio to serve in Congress, she brought a fresh energy and new perspective to the House. No one was surprised when she quickly rose to a position on the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

I got to know STEPHANIE in my first term in Congress because my office was next door to hers. She was never too busy to help a freshman member in whatever way she could. Her energy was boundless, and I will sorely miss her smile—it could light up a crowded room. Those who had the good fortune to know this incredible woman know what I am talking about.

During her four terms in Congress, she was a champion for the people of the eleventh district. She worked tirelessly to create equal opportunities for all people in this country as she fought to increase the minimum wage, to increase funding to public schools, and to create affordable and accessible healthcare.

The people of Ohio have lost a great political leader, and we have lost a beloved and respected colleague. We will all miss her friendly smile and her passion for her fellow man.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL: VIRGINIA LEADS THE WAY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, the years 2011 through 2015 will mark the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, a momentous milestone for our nation that provides an exceptional opportunity to examine the war, its causes and its legacies. The sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War needs to involve full participation at the local, State and Federal levels. However, as there are currently no Federal plans for the sesquicentennial, the states have stepped in to take the lead in planning for this watershed event. I am proud to announce that Virginia leads the nation in being the first to establish a sesquicentennial commission that is planning events and activities that offer a fair and balanced depiction of Civil War history that includes all perspectives. I am pleased to support the work of the Commission and endorse its plans.

Virginia was the epicenter of the Civil War in the 1860s and continues to be a central location in terms of what visitors can see and experience today. Virginia has more Civil War battlefields, museums and historic sites than any other state, including the historic site of the first land battle of the Civil War at Manassas that is located in the 10th Congressional District, which I represent. Too often when we study history, we tend to think that battles were neatly fought within the split-rail fenced boundaries. In truth, most of Virginia was a battleground during the Civil War.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The Virginia General Assembly created the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission in 2006 for the purpose of preparing for and commemorating the sesquicentennial of Virginia's participation in the American Civil War. Speaker of the House of

Delegates William Howell chairs the Commission, whose other members include President Pro Tempore of the Senate Chuck Colgan, members of the House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia, citizens, and the renowned Civil War historian Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., of Virginia Tech. It is important to recall that Dr. Robertson was selected by President Kennedy to serve as executive director of the Federal Centennial Commission 50 years ago.

The Commission is charged with:

Planning commemorative programs and activities that are designed to involve all citizens and result in a positive legacy and long-term public benefit,

Encouraging civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout Virginia to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Civil War, and

Providing technical assistance to localities and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

The Commission has established the following goals to guide the commemoration that are reflective of values that are important to Americans today:

Diversity: The commemoration will be inclusive of and meaningful to all Virginians, particularly: diverse racial and ethnic groups, citizens who are new to this country and those who do not have a hereditary link to the American Civil War, and young people and others seeking to understand the relevance of the American Civil War to today's society.

Inclusiveness: The commemoration will seek to portray a fair and balanced story of Virginia's participation in the American Civil War that includes African-American, Union, and Confederate perspectives.

Statewide Accessibility: The commemoration will be statewide, involving all localities and encompassing all Civil War-related institutions, museums, battlefields, parks, and facilities.

Education: The commemoration will include a strong education component designed to ignite a renewed interest in Virginia's historical heritage. Opportunities will be provided to re-examine the lessons of the past and the legacies of the Civil War to understand how they affect the present and continue to shape our future.

Permanence: The commemoration will imprint Virginia history and leave a positive and rich legacy well beyond 2015.

The Commission has begun to develop plans for how to recognize the magnitude of this occasion. The Commission has adopted a vision statement that will guide the commemoration period, "Understanding Our Past, Embracing Our Future," launched a Web site that is receiving national and international attention (www.VirginiaCivilWar.org), and is developing a comprehensive array of initiatives, including:

Statewide coordination: Linking, coordinating, and promoting the hundreds of Civil War museums and sites throughout the state.

Museum exhibitions: Partnering with the Virginia Historical Society to develop a major exhibition, "An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia," as well as the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile, a mobile museum vehicle that will be capable of traveling throughout the nation to bring these important stories directly to the people.

Legacy Project: Document Digitization: Using the sesquicentennial as an opportunity to preserve and provide access to unknown diaries, journals, letters, and other documents that are in private hands, the Library of Virginia will lead a major initiative to identify, catalog, and preserve those documents through digitization and web access. Locating and uncovering this material will provide a boon to Civil War research for years to come.

Signature events: Signature events begin in 2009 with a conference on the coming of the Civil War at the University of Richmond, and a joint commemorative event with the State of West Virginia, planned in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry. High profile events are planned for the duration of the commemoration to mark important milestones, such as a national event at Manassas in 2011 to mark the 150th anniversary of the first land battle of the war and to set the tone for the sesquicentennial.

I would like to commend the leadership role that the Commonwealth has taken and recognize the work of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and urge others to join with them to participate in this commemorating this special occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ACT OF 2008

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Suspension of Federal Income Tax on Unemployment Benefits Act of 2008, which is designed to help unemployed Americans as they face increasing living costs and a sluggish economy. Specifically, the bill would suspend the federal income tax on unemployment compensation benefits for two years.

As of August 2008, 9.4 million Americans were unemployed, an increase of 2.2 million from just a year ago. Similarly, the unemployment rate has risen from 4.7 percent to 6.1 percent. Closer to home, as of the end of July, in New York State 522,000 people were unemployed, including 26,200 in the 23rd Congressional District, which I have the privilege of representing. Additionally, six of the 11 counties I represent had unemployment numbers that exceeded the national rate.

On September 4, 2008, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that initial unemployment insurance claims had increased 15,000 to 444,000 and that approximately 3.44 million Americans are now receiving unemployment compensation benefits, which currently average \$294 a week. However, these benefits have been significantly eroded by substantial increases in the prices for consumer goods, perhaps most notably, food and energy.

Many fail to realize that Americans must pay federal income taxes on any unemployment compensation benefits they might receive. However, prior to 1979, those payments were excluded from federal income taxation and it was not until 1986 that Congress made such benefits fully taxable.

Accordingly, someone receiving the average unemployment benefit of \$294 a week (\$1,176 a month) who elects to have federal income taxes withheld will realize a loss of approximately \$117.60 a month—money that might better be used for necessities such as food, housing, health insurance, and gasoline. Moreover, many States also choose to make unemployment compensation subject to state income taxes, which further erodes the assistance these hard-working Americans receive in their time of need.

While I was pleased to join with my colleagues earlier this year to enact legislation to extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks, I firmly believe that we should take the next step of immediately increasing these benefits by exempting them from the federal income tax. Beyond greater assistance to millions of unemployed Americans, this measure would also act to stimulate the economy. In fact, as the Congressional Budget Office has previously estimated, the cessation of income taxes on unemployment benefits would return at least \$3.1 billion annually to those taxpayers who are most in need.

Accordingly, as we consider new ways to help unemployed Americans and to boost the economy, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact the Suspension of Federal Income Tax on Unemployment Benefits Act of 2008.

ARMY RESERVE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of an organization which is vital to our Nation and brings much honor to the State of Tennessee.

The United States Army Reserve celebrated 100 years of service on April 23, 2008, and the history of its citizen warriors exemplifies what makes this Nation the greatest in the world.

The security and strength of our republic has always relied on the readiness and fortitude of its citizens. When the drumbeat of revolution grew loud, it was an army of average citizens who answered the call and fought for our independence. This tradition continues today with the U.S. Army Reserve.

Since its beginning as a 160-person medical corps in 1908, the U.S. Army Reserve has grown into a force which is the support structure for our Nation's armed forces. From World War I to the global war on terror, the soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserve have put their own lives on hold to serve their Nation.

More than 26,000 U.S. Army Reserve soldiers have served in support of military operations since the September 11th attacks. This corps of citizen soldiers brings their expertise—providing half of the Army's combat support—to the front lines in defense of freedom.

My home State of Tennessee is known as the Volunteer State. It is not a term we take lightly, and Tennessee's record of service demonstrates the character of its citizens.

I am especially proud of the 505 soldiers assigned to the 844th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in my district in Tennessee. This battalion is responsible for heavy con-

struction—including roads, living quarters, plumbing, electricity and other infrastructure, keeping our troops safe and more comfortable while serving abroad.

Our Nation's military could not operate without the 844th Engineer Battalion or the United States Army Reserve.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute 100 years of the United States Army Reserve and the citizen warriors who stand ready to defend freedom at a moment's notice.

HONORING CALVIN "JIM" BEATTY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Calvin James Beatty for his dedication to his family and community. Mr. Beatty passed away at Madera Community Hospital on August 19, 2008, at the age of eighty two.

Mr. Jim Beatty was born in Puente, California on March 21, 1926. He graduated from Sweetwater High School in National City, California in 1944 and immediately enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served in the Western Pacific during World War II and in China after the war. Before leaving the military he attained the rank of sergeant. He received an Honorable Discharge in April 1947.

In 1949, Mr. Beatty settled in Madera, California. He met and married Edith Mae Sciacqua in 1950. They have three sons; Kelly, John and Jerry. He spent most of his life as the manager of a cotton gin and retired in the 1980's. He had many hobbies, including flying. Mr. Beatty maintained a pilot's license for over fifty years. He served as a deputy sheriff in the Madera County Aero Squadron. He was always active in the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was also involved with the Knights of Columbus and the Young Men's Institute.

Mr. Beatty is survived by his wife and three children, his daughter-in laws; Cheryl, Michele and Brenda, and five grandchildren: Ryan, Meghan, Michael, Christian and Hallie, and one great-grandson: Brannon. He is also survived by his sister, Donna, her husband and numerous extended family members.

Madame Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Jim Beatty for his dedication to his family and community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

HONORING THE 9TH ANNUAL KALEIDOSCOPE OF HOPE WALK-A-THON

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to 9th Annual Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation's Walk-a-thon, which would not be possible without the hard work of Gail MacNeil, a wonderful woman who

truly made her mark as a dynamic advocate on behalf of ovarian cancer. On Sunday, September 14, 2008, the good citizens of Morris County will take part in the Kaleidoscope of Hope's 9th Annual Walk-a-thon at Loantaka Brook Reservation.

Gail was diagnosed with Stage IIIC ovarian cancer over Christmas 1997. Sadly, her cancer recurred in 2002 and from then on she was on non-stop chemotherapy until she ultimately lost her brave battle on June 21, 2008. She was an amazing life force who continued to work full time as a realtor at Coldwell Banker as well as actively lead many initiatives at Kaleidoscope of Hope. She was an inspiration to all that knew and worked with her, her family and especially to all the cancer survivors and other families whose lives she so passionately touched over the past ten years.

In 2000, Gail co-founded the Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation along with two other ovarian cancer survivors, Lois Myers and Patricia Stewart-Busso. The mission of Kaleidoscope of Hope was to raise awareness of ovarian cancer. Gail, Patty and Lois realized that there was a critical and urgent need for more awareness and research to find an early detection test for ovarian cancer, especially in New Jersey, which has the third highest incidence of ovarian cancer in the nation.

In her role as a co-founder, Gail helped enhance research programs and supported the state's first four year Gynecology Oncology Fellow, based at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Last year, Gail initiated the successful "Turn The Towns Teal" campaign which was the first major awareness effort for KOH. At first, this started as a grass-roots teal ribbon tying event in Morris County, New Jersey, however, word quickly spread and people throughout the state joined in and turned their towns teal. Gail also shared her story as part of the Survivors Teaching Students program through the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the citizens of the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey and the Kaleidoscope of Hope's Walk-a-thon participants for their efforts to raise awareness for ovarian cancer, and in so doing, celebrating the life of a fine woman and leader.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN JERMANIS, JR.

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John J. Jermanis, Jr. upon his retirement as the City Manager of San Leandro, California. John's career with the City of San Leandro spanned 37 years. His first position was Assistant Finance Director where he served for 11 years; he next served as Finance Director for 15 years, and was then appointed City Manager in 1997, where he completed an 11-year tenure prior to his retirement.

John was born and raised in Berkeley, California. He graduated from Berkeley High School in 1961, received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from San Francisco State University in 1966, and has furthered his studies in Public Administration at California State University East Bay.