

necessary including pension reforms—to meet their obligations. The Public Employee Pension Transparency Act would reaffirm that State and local pension obligations are solely the responsibility of those entities and proclaim that the Federal Government will not provide a bailout. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this legislation.

H.R. 4853: THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2010

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4853, the Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2010. This legislation permanently extends the tax cut provisions passed in 2001 and 2003 for individuals with incomes below \$200,000 and \$250,000 for couples. It would permanently extend the 10%, 23% and 28% marginal tax brackets, as well as the 33% bracket as it applies to income of less than \$250,000. It would also continue the maximum \$1,000 child tax credit and the maximum 15% rate on capital gains and dividends where income is less than \$250,000. It would permanently reduce the tax known as the “marriage penalty,” and it includes a 2-year “patch” intended to prevent more than 25 million Americans from being subject to the alternative minimum tax over the next two years. It also permanently extends expensing rules for small businesses.

I am glad to see so much focus on the unemployed and underemployed during debate on the potential extension of the tax cuts. However, the myth that we must pass tax cuts to the wealthy in order to help those without jobs has been disproven several times over. If the concern is about the plight of the 15 million unemployed Americans, the estimated 12 million underemployed, and the estimated 6 million long-term unemployed, we should do the humane and economically efficient thing: extend and expand unemployment assistance.

Instead, the debate is about whether to extend tax cuts to the wealthy. Nearly a quarter of all the income in America today goes to the top 1% of Americans. In recent years, the highest-income Americans have received by far the largest pre-tax raises of any group. They have also had their tax rates drop by far more. Americans have said in polls that they want to see the Bush tax cuts on households making more than \$250,000 per year expire. For the wealthiest 3% of Americans, expiration would simply mean a return to 1990's tax rates if that were to happen. Yet, many of the same advocates for passing a massive tax cut for the wealthy are bemoaning a growing budget deficit.

We must not ask the middle class, the working class, those who are not fortunate enough to make \$200,000 or \$100,000 or even \$20,000 a year, to pay so that the wealthiest Americans can enjoy the lowest income tax rates that any wealthy American has had since the 1960s. We must not tell the poor, the unemployed, and the underemployed, that we cannot help you, because we have decided that the wealthiest Americans need a tax cut more than you need a lift to get you

through these brutal times. Those that need our help must not hear from Congress: go and figure it out for yourselves.

S. 3307, THE HEALTHY, HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT OF 2010

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. This bill is a good first step in addressing childhood hunger and poor nutrition, which are two of the greatest public health challenges facing the United States today.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, which passed the Senate unanimously. It contains the most significant improvements in 30 years to the child nutrition programs that serve millions of children across our country. This legislation expands access to healthy foods for kids, makes it easier for low-income kids to enroll in the school meal programs, improves the nutritional quality of school meals, significantly decreases the availability of junk food and sugary beverages from school vending machines, and expands access to after-school meals for low-income kids.

This is a vote that I do not take lightly. While I never questioned the need to improve child nutrition programs across the country, I did question the Senate's choice to pay for this legislation with a reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. SNAP benefits are an essential part of this nation's nutrition safety net. More than 41 million Americans rely upon SNAP benefits monthly to put food on the table. According to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Data and Statistics Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Report, released in October 2010, the number of households in my home state of Georgia receiving food stamps jumped from 581,709 total households in July of 2009 to 716,749 households in July of 2010—an increase of 23.2% in just one year. Many SNAP recipients are children or seniors, and I had serious concerns that the SNAP reduction would be a classic case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. I was deeply concerned that reducing SNAP benefits to pay for this bill would hurt the people it was meant to help—children of low-income families striving to make ends meet during this turbulent economy.

After a long thought process, I stand here before you as a strong supporter of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. As a Member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I joined a letter to the Obama Administration expressing opposition to reducing SNAP benefits to fund this bill, or any other legislative priority. The President and his Administration share these concerns and have assured Congress that it will work with us to restore this cut and use their current authorities to protect the integrity of SNAP benefits and further improve children's access to nutrition programs.

This bill would be instrumental in helping to address the growing crises of child hunger and also of childhood obesity. In terms of child hunger, last year, more than 1.29 million Georgia students participated in the Free and

Reduced Price Lunch Program. Obesity is a national crisis, but it is of a particular concern in my home state of Georgia which has the second highest prevalence of obese 10–17 year olds in the nation. The provisions in the child nutrition bill that improve nutritional quality of foods served on school campuses throughout the school day and those that strengthen Local School Wellness Policies can help to combat the rise in childhood obesity we see here in Georgia. According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey report released in September 2010, 22.3% of Georgia's children live in poverty—that's more than half a million children under age 18.

I would be remiss if I did not mention two key individuals in my district that have worked hard to combat childhood obesity. Dr. Yvonne Butler founded Healthy Kids Smart Kids. Healthy Kids Smart Kids is an organization that fights childhood obesity and educates adults and children on healthy eating and staying active. She started the first sugar-free school program in Georgia at Browns Mill Elementary School in Lithonia. Ms. Pat “Shy” Haggans is a certified personal trainer and lifestyle coach who founded Generation Next Sports Performance facility in Lithonia where she specializes in getting kids fit to fight obesity. Like Dr. Butler, she has helped hundreds of kids shed pounds through exercise, planning and lifestyle changes to combat childhood obesity. She assists parents as well to ensure that the next generation will be healthier than ours.

It is important to recognize that this bill would not be on the floor now if it were not for Representatives GEORGE MILLER, ROSA DELAUNO, and JAMES MCGOVERN. Their leadership in conducting negotiations with the Obama Administration was key to moving this bill forward.

I strongly support the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which would also help advance the Administration's goal of solving the problem of childhood obesity within a generation, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. BARB DEMARCO'S DECADES OF ACTIVISM IN THE WEST BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY AND HER NINE YEARS OF SERVICE TO ITS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Barb DeMarco, a member of the West Bloomfield School District Board of Education and lifelong local activist, on the occasion of her retirement. As a Member of Congress, it is both my honor and privilege to recognize Ms. DeMarco for her decades of service and work to build a better future for the West Bloomfield community and its youth.

For the past 25 years, Ms. DeMarco has been at the fore of many grassroots initiatives in West Bloomfield to improve the quality of life for its residents. Ms. DeMarco was often the driving force behind many of the millage initiatives that were directed toward acquiring and developing land for use as community

parks. It is with this same sprit of activism and bettering the community that Ms. DeMarco embarked on her journey to advocate for improving public education for our youth. As a concerned citizen, well before her tenure on the board of education, Ms. DeMarco spearheaded campaigns to pass bond initiatives to strengthen West Bloomfield schools and create an environment of academic excellence for its students.

Beginning in 2001 Ms. DeMarco took her passion for activism and advocacy to the West Bloomfield School District Board of Education, where she has served with selflessness and tenacity. Ms. DeMarco's initial work focused on improving school curriculum, where she fought for a rigorous academic program to provide students every opportunity to excel. After just 3 years on the Board, Ms. DeMarco was appointed to the Oakland Schools Intermediate School District Board of Education where she took that same zeal for fighting for public education to both a county and national level.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Ms. DeMarco's decades of advocacy on behalf of her students and her community. Her presence will surely be missed. It is with much gratitude for her service and dedication that I wish her many more years of advocacy and success in building a better community for our youth.

IN HONOR OF DR. EDWARD G.
KESHOCK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I am saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Edward G. Keshock. Dr. Keshock was Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Cleveland State University. He was also Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic for the State of Ohio since his appointment in 1999.

Ed Keshock received his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Detroit in 1958 and began his career in July of that year with the NASA Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland. There, he worked as a research engineer in the Heat Transfer Branch of the Nuclear Reactor Division. He participated in some of the earliest studies dealing with boiling heat transfer processes in low- or fractional-gravity fields, relating to applications in the newly emerging field of space exploration.

In 1964, Ed began his studies at Oklahoma State University where he earned his Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering in 1966 and 1968, respectively. After a distinguished career as professor at Old Dominion University, the University of Tennessee, and the Air Force Institute of Technology, Dr. Keshock returned to Cleveland in 1990. He was appointed Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Cleveland State University where he served until his death.

Throughout his academic career, Dr. Keshock focused on research while teaching graduate and undergraduate classes in Mechanical Engineering. His research on the ef-

fects of microgravity on heat transfer processes spanned his career of more than 50 years.

Dr. Keshock was actively involved with the Slovak-American communities of the State of Ohio and the country of Slovakia. Dr. Keshock served as President of the Cleveland Bratislava International Sister Cities organization for most of its existence. In 1995, Dr. Keshock was appointed to be co-host to a 35-member delegation from the Slovak Republic at the White House Conference on Trade and Investment, attended and sponsored by the U.S. Government, including President Clinton and members of his White House staff.

In 1999, Dr. Keshock was appointed the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic for the State of Ohio. In this capacity, he not only represented the country of Slovakia in all official matters in the State of Ohio, but was involved in extensive community and international cultural programs that contribute to the improvement in the quality of life for citizens throughout the State of Ohio and Slovakia. He is also a member of the City of Cleveland Consular Corps, thus interacting with many ethnic and nationality communities.

Madam Speaker and respected colleagues, please join me in mourning the loss of a deeply respected scholar and statesman, Dr. Edward Keshock. Our condolences go out to his wife Mary Jo, their three children Kathleen of Knoxville, Tennessee; Carolyn of London, England; and Michael of Mobile, Alabama; and their three grandchildren. He leaves behind a significant and memorable personal and professional legacy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SCOTIA
BAND

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Scotia Band, a community band formed in Humboldt County, California in 1935. The Scotia Band is a living legacy of America's musical heritage and a fixture on the North Coast of California.

The 35-piece, marching Scotia Band was established in 1935 by employees of The Pacific Lumber Company, later welcoming other musicians of the community. Women were encouraged to join during World War II, with the first woman president, Alice Gunnerson, serving from 1950–51. Local students have also participated, establishing the Scotia Band as an important part of music education in the region. Over the years, the band has involved over 700 musicians and conducted over 3,600 rehearsals.

In 1960, Sewell Lufkin was appointed band leader. A local elementary school teacher and World War II veteran, he instilled his abiding appreciation for music in his students. After his death in 1978, the Scotia Band established the Sewell Lufkin Memorial Scholarship, which continues to support Humboldt County students pursuing music education.

The Scotia Band continues to perform traditional and contemporary concert music at annual events and one-time commemorations throughout the county. Under the leadership of

the current band leader, Michael McClimon, smaller ensembles have been formed, including the Scotia Dixieland Band, the Tijuana Brass Group, the Scotia Brass Choir, the Scotia Ragtime Band and the Saxophone Quartet.

Humboldt County is proud to be the home of the Scotia Band, an historic and cultural institution that over the years has enriched the lives of many thousands of people. From the Blessing of the Fleet to the Fortuna Apple Harvest Festival, the Scotia Band has performed at hundreds of community functions that celebrate the cultural richness of the region. Their music continues to touch new generations and remind us of the traditions that make America great.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time to recognize the Scotia Band on the occasion of its 75th anniversary of outstanding musical performance and education to our community.

STRENGTH IN HONOR CPL.
TRAMPUS MILLER, A CO 1-21 INF
"GATORS", 25TH INF DIV THE
UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a real American Hero, from my great state of Kentucky, Cpl Trampus Miller. A member of A Co. 1-21 INF "Gators" of the 25th INF DIV., The United States Army. On July 8th 2008, Cpl Miller was almost lost when a 900 lb bomb exploded in Nasar Wa Salam Iraq, killing his Brother In Arms Cpl "Doc" McMillian. Cpl Miller from Campton lost his leg and almost his life. But in a few short years he has already begun to his amazing most courageous life and recovery. He lives by a code of Strength In Honor!

STRENGTH IN HONOR

Strength In Honor
Men of might
Those brave hearts, who evil must fight!
Who but, with their most courageous hearts
. . . . so bring the light!
Kentucky born, men like Trampus with
hearts so worn so very bright!
Who all through the darkness of war, must
somehow endure and win that fight!
Yes, Trampus oh how your fine heart
so sounds, this night
For you live by such a fine code!
Of Strength In Honor, so!
As over the generations, such men as you
have so carried that load!
And bought and paid for, all of our Free-
dom's so!
Men who come back without arms and legs!
Who now so lie in such soft quiet graves
. . . .
Who all for God and Country, so gave!
For it was all in that moment!
That moment Trampus, as when you awoke
. . . .
And found what this war had so invoked!
While, close to death your fine heart so
spoke!
Spoke of Faith and Courage, which now all
of us so bless!
With but, your Strength In Honor yes!
As we watch you rebuild, as all of our hearts
you so nourish still
As you fight The Good Fight, and will not be
discouraged with but your iron will!