

Chairman, today you join your father, who was a Navy man. You join your son Jim, who is an Army colonel, and your son Ike, who is a Navy captain. And as a proud member of the U.S. military, you join them today in the ranks. And now, sir, you have true family bragging rights on all of them because you're about to become a member of the world's finest fighting force.

In the 235-year history of the United States Marine Corps, only 73 other Americans have been awarded the title honorary Marine. It was established to reinforce the special bond between Marines and the American people. Finally, it was established in recognition of individuals who have distinguished themselves through noteworthy service to Corps and country.

Chairman, in honor of all that you stand for, in honor of all that you have accomplished, and in honor of all that you have done for the United States of America and its Marine Corps, you are, without question, deserving of the title of United States Marine. Chairman, will you please join me up front?

CITATION

To all who shall see these presents greetings, know ye that reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, fidelity and abilities of the Honorable Ike Skelton, I do appoint him an honorary Marine of the United States Marine Corps for his unyielding support and devotion to Corps and country. In testimony thereof, I, General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, have hereunto inscribed my name. Done in the city of Washington, this first day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and in the 235th year of the independence of the United States of America.

You have plenty of things hanging in your office, and I'd appreciate it if you'd take [one of] them down [to make room for this citation]. But this is your certificate of being a United States Marine. Chairman, you are loved by those 202,000 Marines that are on active duty and the hundreds of thousands that have had your fingerprints on them over the last many years that you've been not only a U.S. Congressman, but, in particular, the Chairman.

Sir, you have loved your Marines. You have loved our men and women. And we are very, very grateful for all that you have done for us. It is our pleasure and our honor to make you a United States Marine.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF LAPEER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHAIRMAN DAVID TAYLOR

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the dedicated public service of Lapeer County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Taylor. On December 31, 2010, David will retire after 14 years as a Member of the Board. He has been Chairman since 1999, leading Lapeer County for over an entire decade. Despite the various challenges and economic difficulties across the State of Michigan, Chairman Taylor has remained resilient and has kept the county on the right path—always working to serve the best interests of the people he has had the privilege to represent.

David's decision to run for County Commissioner came in 1997. But before this, he brought with him a unique background and perspective to help in his new role as leader of the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Taylor was born in Pontiac; he worked on his family farm in Dryden. Later, he was employed for 30 years at the General Motors Pontiac Truck Plant. He then moved on to Metamora Township and served as the Zoning Administrator and was a delivery man for Champion Bus and Truck.

During his time as an elected official, Mr. Taylor has filled numerous committee spots and other posts to help move Lapeer County forward and to create a brighter future for the next generation to follow. He has been a shining example of strong leadership and has provided solid vision for Lapeer County.

It has been my privilege to work with him on a vast array of issues that are vital to Lapeer County during my role as a federal legislator. David has been a tremendous partner, friend and asset to my office. He is always looking to improve the quality of life for all residents and discovering new ways to make Lapeer County a wonderful place to live, raise a family and work.

I commend Chairman Taylor for all his efforts and personal sacrifice during his tenure on the Board. I know David will always have Lapeer County's best interests at heart which is evident by his charity work. We fully know and understand that we are not doing our job if we do not provide a better future for our children . . . and their children. David's work with the Shriners International and their Motorcycle Drill Team is just one of the many examples of how Mr. Taylor is committed to his community and those who will eventually take the reins as leaders.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I want to extend my best wishes to David Taylor on this special occasion. He will be severely missed on the Board, but his presence will still be felt by those who continue to serve. I hope he enjoys doing the things he loves most like spending time with his family, hunting, snowmobiling, volunteering and traveling. His service to the citizens of Lapeer County, the State of Michigan and our Nation is officially recognized and greatly appreciated.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise to revise my remarks regarding the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4853, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

I request the record reflect that Ms. Tammy Fisher is from West Texas, not East Texas.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF BILLY G. SMITH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Billy G. Smith for his contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out someone who has accomplished an amazing feat that deserves recognition, applause, and perhaps, a test of his sanity; incredibly, Billy G. has been a part of my staff for all of my 26 years in Congress.

Billy and I have worked together since my first campaign for Congress in 1984. In the Upper Cumberland, Billy emerged as a man who could get things done. After the election, he became my field representative for the area, and he has served my constituents there ever since. My younger staff members fondly say that Billy is old school, and, Madam Speaker, that's just fine by me. Billy is an old soul of the Upper Cumberland — a man who knows his neighbors, memorizes the best fishing holes, and earns his community's trust.

To say Billy has deep roots in the Upper Cumberland would be an understatement. As a boy, Billy helped his father work the farm with mules instead of a tractor. He served as Putnam County Sheriff in the 1970s and has worked as a police officer, a factory foreman, managed food and beverages for a hotel, opened a restaurant called Billy G's, and rented out a building complex. He knows everyone there is to know and is an institution unto himself.

In his 26 years as my field representative, Billy has helped thousands of constituents who have come to my office on the courthouse square in Cookeville. He has warmly received individuals, families and business owners looking for assistance with a federal agency. He has ensured countless people received the Social Security and veterans benefits they deserve. He has heard the concerns and touched the lives of many families in need of help, and he has always kept me informed of the needs of my constituents in Clay, Jackson, Putnam, Overton and Smith counties. Just this year, he found himself trying to help constituents who had lost property in the wake of damaging floods. He could easily sympathize; his own childhood home also was severely damaged in the storm, but Billy was still in the office ready to help anyone he could.

In all his time working for me and the residents of the Upper Cumberland, Billy has never taken a full vacation, so it may come as no shock to many that Billy has made plans to go into business for himself once again. Most folks who had such accomplished careers would already be well into retirement, but Billy

will be continuing on with his work as a small business owner.

A constituent once knitted a sign that hung above Billy's desk that read, "I am just a nobody, trying to help somebody." Billy was fond of telling this to folks who came to my office for assistance. It reassured them that he was there to help, and it let them know their concerns were important to him, and to me. Madam Speaker, it is that generosity and humility that have made him a friend to so many and such a valuable colleague to me. Billy has been a dedicated public servant, a trusted friend and an unstoppable force of nature.

Billy, thank you for all of your help over the years. I wish you all the best in the future.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support much that is contained within this resolution, regarding the need to move forward on direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. A two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is critical to the security of Israel and to the strategic interests of the United States, in the region and around the world.

However, this is a missed opportunity to raise concerns about the unilateral actions taken by both sides. In particular, the ongoing unilateral construction by Israeli settlers. Strong U.S. leadership is needed to bring these two sides together, and any resolution brought to the floor should clearly support that cause.

This resolution does not meet that test and I must oppose it. While the bill recognizes an issue of concern, it does too little to affirm the urgency of achieving a two-state resolution, fails to oppose unilateral actions by all sides, and is silent on supporting the Obama Administration's efforts to negotiate peace.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and the administration in a more productive manner to achieve lasting peace and a comprehensive two-state solution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 16, 2010. If I was present, I would have voted on the following:

On Motion to Adjourn—rollcall No. 639—"nay".

S. 841, Pedestrian Enhancement Safety Act of 2010—rollcall No. 640—"yea".

S. 3860, To Require Reports on the Management of Arlington National Cemetery—rollcall No. 641—"yea".

S. 3447, Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010—rollcall No. 642—"yea".

H. Res. 1766, Agreeing to the Amendment—rollcall No. 643—"aye".

H. Res. 1766, Agreeing to the Resolution, as Amended—rollcall No. 644—"aye".

S. 987, International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2010—rollcall No. 645—"yea".

H.R. 4853, Levin of Michigan Amendment—rollcall No. 646—"aye".

H.R. 4583, Motion to Concur in the Senate Amdt to the House Amdt to the Senate Amdt—rollcall No. 647—"aye".

LITTLE JIMMY DICKENS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor James Cecil Dickens, better known as Little Jimmy Dickens, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. He may be a man of diminutive stature, but Little Jimmy the renowned entertainer and Grand Ole Opry star, stands taller than the rest.

Jimmy Dickens was the first of thirteen children born to a West Virginia farming family and knew from a young age that he wanted to write and sing country music. He first appeared on local radio in the 1940s under the name "Jimmy the Kid" where he began building his reputation as the master of the country novelty song. Some of his early hits include "Take an Old Cold Tater (And Wait)" (1949), "I'm Little But I'm Loud" (1950), "Country Boy" (1949), and "A-Sleeping at the Foot of the Bed" (1950).

In 1948, Roy Acuff heard Jimmy and invited him to perform on the world-famous Grand Ole Opry stage at the Ryman Auditorium. Little Jimmy was an immediate favorite not only for his unforgettable songs, but also for his flamboyant style and country sense of humor. He became a permanent member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1948, and recently celebrated his 60th anniversary as the longest-tenured Opry member of all time.

Little Jimmy was signed to his first major label, Columbia Records, the same year he became an Opry Member. It was at that time that Dickens formed the band the Country Boys, whose line-up included top-flight musicians Jabbo Arrington, Grady Martin, Bob Moore, Buddy Emmons and Thumbs Carlisle. Dickens had a number of hits with the Country Boys, though none bigger than "May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose" (1965), which reached number one on the country charts and hit the pop charts, as well. Little Jimmy holds the unique distinction of having hit records in every decade from the 1940s to the 1970s.

But Little Jimmy Dickens' music is only part of his story and only part of what makes him just as popular today as when he first burst onto the country music scene over 60 years ago. He is quick with a joke and he is kind-hearted. He always has time for his fans and often spends hours signing every last autograph after a show. In an ever-changing music industry, Little Jimmy is a constant presence and a reminder that sometimes nice guys finish first.

Jimmy has long been adored by his country music colleagues as well, whether it be fellow

legends like the late Hank Williams (who nicknamed Jimmy, "Tater") or modern-day superstar, Brad Paisley (who Jimmy often performs with). It is this adoration that earned him a spot in the Country Music Hall of Fame nearly 30 years ago.

Jimmy is celebrating his 90th year as anyone who knows him might guess he'd celebrate it—by entertaining his fans with good country music and humor. He's even worked his age into his act. "You'll know you're 90-years-old," Jimmy tells his fans, "when you drop something, bend over to pick it up, and think to yourself, 'is there anything else I can do while I'm down here?'"

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Little Jimmy Dickens—an icon, a legend, and a global ambassador to country music.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this tax compromise with strong reservations. This bill contains some highly objectionable provisions like unnecessary tax breaks for the wealthiest two percent of Americans and an estate tax modification that will only benefit the richest 6,600 households across the country. These two items alone will cost \$129 billion, which could alternatively be used for deficit reduction. However, I cannot in good conscience allow all of Rhode Island's businesses and families to suffer onerous tax increases at a time when jobs are scarce and people are pinching pennies just to put food on the table.

Providing tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires is both financially unjust and fiscally irresponsible given our current budgetary challenges, but this compromise protects 98 percent of Americans from significant tax increases set to take effect January 1, 2011, and has the potential to create the private sector jobs than can sustain an economic recovery.

This legislation extends the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for all income levels for two years, and prevents middle-income Rhode Islanders from being hit with higher tax rates under the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). It also contains several provisions that would assist families and stimulate our economic recovery, which has been frustratingly slow in Rhode Island as state unemployment has lingered at 12.5 percent.

This compromise includes a 13 month extension of Unemployment Insurance for the thousands of Rhode Islanders who are unable