

INTRODUCTION OF THE INFORMED TAXPAYERS' FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORTING ACT OF 2010

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation I introduced, along with my colleagues Congressman ERIC CANTOR, Congressman DAVE CAMP, Congressman PAUL RYAN, and Congressman KEVIN BRADY, that would require the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, to publish certain fiscal information on the Federal government each year and make it available to taxpayers online and when they prepare their taxes.

Just like publicly-owned companies in the United States provide information on their finances in annual shareholder reports, I believe the Federal government ought to provide important transparency about the state of our Nation's finances. Taxpayers are like shareholders of the Federal government and ought to have access to similar information on their government.

Unfortunately, statistics on Federal government tax revenue, spending, deficits, and debt are often buried in random reports or on government websites and presented in a confusing manner with technical jargon or confusing formats. Why must it be that difficult for Americans to learn about what their government is doing with their money? It should not be, and this is the purpose of the Informed Taxpayers' Federal Government Annual Reporting Act.

Specifically, this bill would require the IRS to publish a chart on government finances to be included in the instruction booklets taxpayers use when filing their income taxes each April and post this chart on the IRS online homepage. The chart would be broken down into three sections. The first section, "Current Federal Government Finances," would be required to include current Federal tax revenue, spending, deficits, and public debt statistics. "Federal Government Finances & You," the second section, would include per capita data, such as each taxpayer's share of the national debt. And the last section, "Projected Federal Government Finances," would be required to include estimated Federal tax revenue, spending, deficits, and debt over the next ten years as put together by the Congressional Budget Office, CBO.

With enactment of the Federal government takeover of health care and the \$1 trillion stimulus bill—including interest—it is all the more important for the American people to know what their government is doing and how this impacts our nation as whole. These policies have contributed to the current amount of taxes, spending, deficit, and debt, which are all in the trillions of dollars. Unfortunately, it seems in Washington that trillion has become the new billion.

The Federal government takes in over \$2 trillion in tax revenue annually, but even with that incredible amount of taxpayer dollars flowing into the government, this Congress and the President continue to spend with borrowed money—\$1.4 trillion last year. This means Washington spent almost \$3.5 trillion. And this year, it does not look that much better with deficits projected to be \$1.5 trillion, according

to the Office of Management and Budget. With all this runaway spending, the Federal debt continues to grow, and CBO projects it to be \$13.2 trillion this year.

These numbers are not only shocking, but unsustainable.

The Informed Taxpayers' Federal Government Annual Reporting Act is designed to build upon fundamental tenets of American democracy of transparency and openness in government by helping ensure that all Americans have access to easy-to-understand information on how their tax dollars are being used by their government.

TRIBUTE TO WAREHAM HIGH SCHOOL—THE 2010 MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION III BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to pay tribute to the Wareham High School Basketball team who just captured the first Division III State Championship Title for the town of Wareham, Massachusetts. This was their first state title since 1956. This impressive team is led by Coach Kevin Brogioli and includes Jules Tavares, who scored a game-high 25 points and Pat Murphy, who scored 11 points, including his 1,000th career point.

This season, the Vikings have scored 100 points or more in four games, beating Cardinal Spellman 78–71 to clinch the Division III South Sectional Championship, besting Bedford at the TD Bank Boston Garden 63–49 to become the Division III Eastern Championship and defeating New Leadership of Springfield 80–57 at the DCU Center in Worcester to capture the Division III State Championship Title.

Congratulations to Coach Brogioli, Assistant Coach Steve Faniel, Assistant Coach Mike Ponte and the Vikings team, listed here in alphabetical order: Darien Fernandez, Sheldon Frye, Jowaun Gamble, Marcus Gomes, Darren Gray, Jeff Houde, Harry Irving, Dylan Marcal, Mike Mendes, Pat Murphy, Ryan Pina, Jordan Rezendes, Dwight Senna, Jules Tavares, and Nikko Vasconcellos. We are very proud of their teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship.

I am enclosing a proclamation by the town of Wareham and an article that further describes this important achievement.

TOWN OF WAREHAM—PROCLAMATION BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Whereas, the Wareham High School Boys' Varsity Basketball team, known as the Vikings, have demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship and teamwork, and

Whereas, their coach, Kevin Brogioli, along with the assistant coaches, parents and supporters, showed great faith and encouragement to the Vikings, and

Whereas, the Vikings had scored 100 points or more in four games, averaging 87.8 points per game in the regular season, and had three players to reach 1,000 or more points scoring, and

Whereas, the Vikings beat Cardinal Spellman 78–71 to clinch the Division III South Sectional Championship, and

Whereas, the Vikings defeated Bedford at the TD Bank Boston Garden 63–49 to become the Division III Eastern Champions, and

Whereas, the Vikings defeated New Leadership of Springfield 80–57 at the DCU Center

in Worcester; to capture the first Division III State Championship title for Wareham,

Now, therefore, We, the Wareham Board of Selectmen, do hereby proclaim Saturday, March 13, 2010 through Saturday, March 20, 2010 as:

"STATE CHAMPION WAREHAM VIKINGS WEEK"

In Wareham, culminating with a Parade on Saturday March 20, 2010, to honor the young men and the coaches of Wareham Vikings Basketball team that have made this town so proud.

[From SouthCoastToday.com, March 14, 2010]

WAREHAM BOYS BRING HOME FIRST STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(By Ed Collins)

WORCESTER.—Having gotten all the way to the Division 3 State championship game, and needing 32 good minutes to win it all, the Wareham boys basketball team left nothing to chance Saturday afternoon.

The Vikings saved their best game of the season for their last, digging deep on defense, flying high on offense and even finding time to help senior Pat Murphy reach an elusive milestone en route to an 80–57 win over New Leadership Charter School of Springfield at the DCU Center.

"We executed our game plan to near perfection," a smiling Wareham coach Kevin Brogioli said after bringing home the first state basketball championship in school history. "We got the job done on defense and we played some good Wareham fast-break basketball."

"We came here expecting to win, but we thought it would be a last-second game," junior Jules Tavares said. "It didn't work out that way though, because we played great. To play like that in our biggest game of the season says a lot about the kind of team we have. This was a dream game for us."

New Leadership certainly wasn't expecting the kind of defense it saw from Wareham.

"We're known for our offense and that's been a key for us all season," Brogioli said. "But, we also take a lot of pride in our defense. Our kids always work hard on defense and that gets overlooked sometimes."

In comments made before the game, Wildcats coach Capus Gee talked about how his team planned to beat the Vikings by pounding the ball into the paint and shutting down their fast break.

Wareham's Ryan Pina, a 6-foot-3 senior center, took offense at the remarks and came out fired up to play his best defensive game of the season.

"I read what he said and took it as a personal challenge. I wasn't going to let them push us around," Pina said. "Our offense gets all the headlines, but we can play defense against anyone and we proved that today."

Senior guard Darren Gray set a good tone right away for Wareham with some tough man-to-man defense against New Leadership point guard Phillip Warrick, who ended up scoring 18 points, three below his average.

"Defense wins championships and coach (Brogioli) has been preaching that to us all season," Gray said. "We knew we had to get the job done on defense. We never have to worry about scoring points, but you don't win games at this level if you don't play good team defense."

The Vikings made some early stops, hit the boards hard, and shifted into overdrive on offense after the first of two thunderous dunks by Tavares lit a fire under them.

Wareham, which had two shots blocked by the athletic Wildcats (21–4) in the opening minute, took the lead for good at 10–8 and never looked back after building a 22–13 lead in the first quarter.

Tavares finished with a game-high 25 points for the Vikings, who led 42–22 at half-time and kept pulling away in the second half en route to building several 28-point leads.

Senior forward Jordan Rezendes also had a big game, finishing with 21 points and three of the team's four 3-pointers. Pina chipped in with 10 points and some big rebounds on the defensive glass that kept the Wildcats from getting second shots.

With the game out of hand late, the Vikings made a concerted effort to help Murphy reach the 1,000-point mark for his career. After not scoring in the first half, Murphy made a 3-pointer and finished with five points in the third quarter to hit 995 for his career. A pair of layups in the fourth quarter set the stage for Murphy's milestone basket, a baseline drive with 1:48 left to play that came as a big relief to Murphy—and the large Wareham crowd that lived and died with every shot he took down the stretch.

"I didn't know if I was going to get there, but I did and I have my teammates to thank, because they kept passing me the ball," Murphy said. "Those last six points were the hardest ones of my career. I'm glad I was able to get it done in my last game and help the team win the biggest game in school history."

After Murphy's final basket, the celebration began in earnest for the Vikings. Brogioli pulled his starters with 1:46 remaining and there were a lot of hugs and high fives up and down the team's bench.

"It feels great to win this game for the people of Wareham and my father (Jim Brogioli), who coached this team for a long time," Brogioli said. "Our fans were great all season and they stepped it up in the state tournament. We fed off their energy and we thank them for their support. It's been a great ride, a historical ride, and this team has left its mark on Wareham High School forever."

HONORING CORPORAL JONATHAN DANIEL PORTO

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life of Cpl Jonathan Daniel Porto, who died honorably serving his country as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Corporal Porto enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in March 2008. An honor graduate from Paris Island, he received two meritorious promotions. Corporal Porto served as a Small Arms Repair Technician and was assigned under 1st Battalion 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

In March 2010, at the age of 26, Corporal Porto was killed in action while supporting combat operations in the Helmand province of southern Afghanistan. For his superior leadership skills, Porto was promoted to Corporal in December 2009.

His awards include the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and NATO International Security Assistance Force Medal.

I commend Corporal Porto for his utmost dedication and devotion to preserving the freedom of our Nation. His commitment and brav-

ery gives his widow and infant daughter, Rachel and Ariana Porto, of Edgewood, Maryland, immense pride.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the life of Cpl Jonathan Daniel Porto. It gives me great pride to honor one of our Nation's fallen heroes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, on March 23, I missed six rollcall votes numbered 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, and 177.

Rollcall No. 172 was a vote on Ordering the Previous Question. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 173 was a vote on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 1205. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 174 was a vote On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.J. Res. 80. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall No. 175 was a vote On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 1186. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall No. 176 was a vote On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3976. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall No. 177 was a vote On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4592. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, on rollcall #185, I was not present to vote; however, had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

COMMEMORATING THE VISIT TO CUBA OF THE FREEDOM SCHOONER AMISTAD IN RECOGNITION OF U.N. DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR SLAVERY VICTIMS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I wish to inform my colleagues that the Freedom Schooner Amistad, a national human rights icon moored in New Haven, CT, is making history this week. As part of the United Nations commemoration of March 25 as the global Day of Remembrance for the victims of the Atlantic slave trade, the Amistad arrived Monday in Matanzas, Cuba, and today will sail for Havana.

The Amistad entered Cuban waters on March 22, 2010 for a 10-day, two city Cuba tour that will culminate its recent Caribbean Heritage Voyage. The ship first visited Matanzas, site of a new UNESCO-affiliated

slavery museum. Today, the Amistad will sail into Havana Harbor to commemorate the historic "triangle of trade" connections between America, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. Tomorrow, the vessel will host a three-hour simulcast about the shared slave trade heritage, connecting Cuban students to classrooms across the Atlantic Ocean and at the U.N. in New York. In addition to public tours of the boat and academic panels on its history, the Cuba visits will focus on the impact of the slave trade on our transatlantic cultural heritage—including religious ritual, film, music, dance, poetry and visits to former plantations.

The sale of the Amistad captives in Havana was a small transaction in the thriving international slave trade. But the resulting events arguably turned the tide against slavery itself—and the historical connections across the modern African Diaspora are direct and profound.

This visit is especially poignant because Amistad's own story began in Cuba. The original ship was built in Cuba. In 1839, the Amistad sailed from Havana, the center of the illegal slave trade. This will be the replica's first visit to Cuba—and it coincides with the tenth anniversary of its launch at Mystic Seaport Museum on March 25, 2000.

The Amistad is a 140-foot replica of the two-masted black schooner that was at the center of the 1841 slave rebellion case argued successfully by John Quincy Adams, leading to the first U.S. Supreme Court case freeing African captives. The replica Amistad has visited 70 domestic and international ports as a symbol of this human rights milestone.

In 2008, the Amistad undertook a 14,000-mile transatlantic sail to Africa. On March 25 of that year, the Amistad was linked via satellite directly to the U.N. as the General Assembly voted to commemorate that date as the bicentennial of the pioneering British act that first outlawed the slave trade. Students from six countries sailed legs of the Africa voyage. Soon thereafter, the Amistad was designated as floating ambassador for the U.N. Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Atlantic Slave Trade. The boat's most recent port of call was Santo Domingo, for a week of programs for youths from the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

During the two months after the current Caribbean tour, the vessel will visit five cities historically linked to the 19th century slave trade: Savannah, Charleston, Norfolk, Washington, DC and Baltimore. The next heritage tour will include visits this summer to Boston, Halifax and seven Great Lakes ports, culminating in Chicago. In December, the Amistad sails back to Africa, including for celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the independence of Senegal. But for now, all eyes are on Cuba.

THE RUNAWAY SCRAPE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize a large group of heroes who played a great role in Texas' history—the strong and brave women who contributed to the successful escape from their hometowns as Santa Anna and his troops barreled forward after conquering the Alamo.