

TAX DAY TAX BREAKS

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, Tax Day is tomorrow, and thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act middle class families in western Pennsylvania and throughout the country are seeing big tax returns this year. The Recovery Act provided tax cuts for 99 percent of working Pennsylvanians and resulted in a 10 percent increase in the average tax refund this year. That's a big help to families in my district who are working hard to pay their bills.

The Recovery Act extended the earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, and college tax credits for families and students. First-time homebuyers benefit from a tax credit of up to \$8,000, and businesses can write off new equipment purchases and increase bonus depreciation. Americans are saving an estimated \$222 billion in taxes this year thanks to the Recovery Act.

I am proud that through the work we have been doing here in Congress we have lowered the tax burden for my hardworking constituents.

AND THE BORDER WAR GOES ON

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the violence at our southern border with Mexico has escalated, resulting in murders, kidnappings, old west shootouts, Mexican military helicopter intrusions into the U.S., and criminal cartels cloning Border Patrol vehicles to smuggle the drugs.

An Arizona rancher was murdered at the border recently on his ranch. A California border agent was assassinated just a few months ago. In El Paso, Texas, our Border Patrol agents are being targeted by the Azteca hit men. These outlaws protect shipments of dope for the Juarez drug cartel.

Now these Mexican criminal cartels have put a \$250,000 bounty on our Border Patrol agents. In response, our Border Patrol agents have been told to wear bulletproof vests. Why do we wait for more tragedy before more boots are put on the ground? Our law enforcement agents need help. Doesn't Washington know that the border has become a violent war zone? National Guard troops should be deployed to the border immediately to protect us from the narcoterrorists.

And that's just the way it is.

CEREMONY HONORING VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of National

Crime Victims' Rights Week, which occurs from April 18 to April 24. As founders and co-chairs of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, Congressman Ted Poe and I this evening are hosting the annual Victims' Rights Caucus Awards ceremony, honoring six individuals from around the country for their outstanding accomplishments in the field of victims services and victim advocacy.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week helps us all to celebrate and acknowledge the victim service providers and the criminal justice professionals who every day provide critical assistance to the victims of crimes. They do it on a 24-7 basis.

Crime victims are our sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, parents, and our friends. They are struggling to survive in the aftermath of a crime, and they deserve services and support to help them cope.

SUPPORT FOR NASA

(Mr. GRIFFITH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence that we have the most advanced manned space flight program on earth, attracting and inspiring the world's greatest minds. Our space program is a matter of great national pride and of great national security importance.

We are profoundly disappointed in the lack of vision coming from the administration, sending a message to our scientific community that indicates a lack of understanding and commitment. This matter goes to the very essence of what makes America the greatest country on earth.

Lowering expectations for manned space flight is not compatible with the culture of America. Dr. Holdren's recent statement that we can't expect to be number one in everything indefinitely is shockingly, shockingly uninspiring. However, if we do not strive to maintain our primacy in manned space flight, we will be well on our way to mediocrity.

I and the entire NASA Caucus will do everything in our power to fund Constellation with a budget that is respectful of the investments we have made in our space program.

RECENT TAX CUTS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is Tax Day, of course, and that is somewhat of a dreaded day in many people's minds. But the fact is in the past year we have had more tax cuts than almost any time in our Nation's history. But with President Obama and this Congress, they have been directed to the lower working class people, the lower income people, and not the top 2 or 3

percent, as happened during the Bush administration.

President Obama stood at the podium behind me in his State of the Union address and said, "Now let me repeat, we cut taxes. We cut taxes for 95 percent of working families. We cut taxes for small businesses. We cut taxes for first-time homebuyers. We cut taxes for parents trying to care for their children. We cut taxes for 8 million Americans paying for college. We put \$300 billion worth of tax cuts into people's pockets so there was demand and businesses had customers." I am proud to have supported the President in these measures.

A third of the stimulus package, the ARRA, was tax cuts. It is something the American people don't realize because of the false rhetoric that has been spread throughout this country. I appreciate the work of this Congress and President Obama, and I thank him for his leadership.

NEWSWEEK SHOULD REPORT FACTS ON ECONOMY

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to my left is the Media Fairness Caucus' Newsweek Wall of Shame, a collection of the magazine's very biased cover articles. Previous covers have featured Vice President Al Gore with the caption, "The Thinking Man's Thinking Man"; President Obama with the caption, "Yes, He Can"; and Vice President JOE BIDEN, "A Vice President to be Reckoned With." This week's cover reads, "America's Back! The Remarkable Tale of our Economic Turn-around".

Apparently Newsweek hasn't heard that the unemployment rate remains close to 10 percent, with 16 million Americans unemployed, that personal income has fallen over 3 percent since President Obama took office, and that the President's budget doubles the national debt in 5 years and triples it in 10.

The only way to bring America back is to reverse the administration's policies of higher taxes, runaway spending, government takeovers, and record debt. Newsweek should report the facts on the economy, not provide free and false advertising for the Obama administration.

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CANCELING THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the President's budget proposal to cancel our human space flight program. It's under the Constellation Program, which was authorized both by

Democrat and Republican Congresses respectively, that NASA is currently developing new launch vehicles capable of traveling to the moon, Mars, and other destinations.

Not only does canceling the Constellation Program jeopardize America's leadership role in human space exploration, but it will have a detrimental effect on our economy, projecting job losses of 30,000 nationally.

Given our current economic downturn, we can't take the possibility of losing these jobs lightly. Our government has already invested literally years and billions of dollars in this program. We should build on these investments and not abandon them, especially considering the private sector will not be able to build a better, faster, cheaper rocket before the Constellation Program is slated to be finished because the technologies NASA proposed to use do not exist yet, nor has any destination been chosen.

Constellation is our only hope to close the current 5-year gap in U.S. access to space, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in opposition to the proposal to close Constellation.

COMMENDING MEDCAMPS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend MedCamps for 23 years of outstanding service in the State of Louisiana.

Founded in 1987, MedCamps of Louisiana provides a summer camp experience to children with physical and mental disabilities such as spina bifida, cerebral palsy, autism, and epilepsy. Each week, free of charge, children come from across Louisiana to participate in a week-long, fun-filled camping experience at Camp Alabama in my district. Children participate in activities such as fishing, arts, crafts, nature hikes, canoeing, and many others. As a family physician for over 30 years, I know firsthand the important role that organizations such as MedCamps play in the lives of children with disabilities.

I congratulate MedCamps on their outstanding service to our State and wish them all the best as they continue to serve the children of Louisiana.

FEDERAL TAXES

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, Federal taxes are very considerably lower by every measure since Obama became President. That's a quote from President Reagan's domestic policy adviser, Bruce Bartlett.

Congress and the President have enacted an array of tax cuts which are crucial for efforts to turn the economy around. Instead of a return to tax cuts

focused only on the wealthy, these tax cuts are broad based and touch many aspects of American life, from investing in a small business, to buying a home or making it energy efficient, to sending your children to college, to buying a car. These tax cuts are helping families and businesses across the country and injecting consumer demand in the economy and spurring business activity, investments, and job creation.

All told, Congress has enacted over \$800 billion in tax cuts, including tax cuts hitting 95 percent of American families in the Recovery Act. Building on the Recovery Act's 25 tax cuts, we have enacted job-creating tax incentives to spur hiring for out-of-work Americans, strengthening small business and tax credits, accelerating write-offs to help grow this economy out of this deep economic hole.

SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, since the President announced his budget on February 1, disapproval of a plan to drastically change the current NASA human space exploration mission has been almost unanimous on both sides of the aisle. The President proposes to add \$6 billion to NASA's budget for the next 5 years, but over those first 4 years the exploration account decreases by \$5.7 billion.

Human space flight and exploration beyond Earth is the very reason that NASA was put into existence. The President's plan moves funds to unproven proposals and costs the government \$2.5 billion to shut down the Constellation Program. Ares I and Ares V overlap technologies, and there is zero budget proof that the administration's new plan will give us those capabilities with less money.

The innovative scientists and employees at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, have done a great job in leading space technology in the world.

Mr. Speaker, when the President speaks tomorrow at the Kennedy Space Center, both Democrat and Republican Members hope that he will make a commitment to properly fund the Constellation Program.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

(Mr. SCHAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, while many are quick to criticize the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the truth is that last month our economy created 162,000 jobs. But, of course, we have got a long way to go to get everyone back to work.

Since tomorrow is Tax Day, I wanted my constituents to know one of the reasons our economy is getting stronger is record tax cuts in the stimulus for middle-class families. Ninety-five percent of workers are receiving the Making Work Pay tax credit of up to \$400 per worker, \$800 per family. Expansion of the child tax credit has helped families of more than 16 million children. Four million more students are attending college as a result of the new \$2,500 tax credit; and tax credits and deductions are helping families stimulate the economy through purchases of homes, cars, trucks, and mobile homes.

As families file their taxes and get their refunds, I want them to understand that these benefits didn't happen by accident. They were the result of a strategy that I supported and Democrats supported, cutting taxes for middle-class families.

TAXES

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Tax Day, a deadline dreaded by millions of Americans currently finishing up their tax returns.

Congress owes it to the American taxpayer to act in a fiscally responsible way. Unfortunately, this Congress has not lived up to this burden. At a time when 15 million American remain unemployed and many more are struggling to make ends meet, this administration and Democratic Congress continue to push through measures which increase taxes and add to government spending, which is already out of control. Strong-arm tactics and economic sleight of hand should not be used to jam through legislation which will impact the life of every American.

The solution is not taking more money from the American people. The answer is fiscal discipline in Washington and tax relief for working Americans. We can't tax and spend our way back to a growing economy, and we owe the American taxpayer better.

POLISH PLANE CRASH

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my sincere condolences to the people of Poland as they mourn the death of President Lech Kaczynski and his wife, Maria, and to the families and friends of the other 94 men and women who lost their lives in Saturday's airplane crash near Russia's Katyn Forest.

Chicago is the second largest Polish city in the world, second only to Warsaw, and among those killed was Wojciech Seweryn, a Chicago sculptor who emigrated from Poland over three decades ago. Seweryn's father was one