

the coming tax year to enact legislation that would do away with this tax forever. In the meantime, I will continue to work with my colleagues to enact additional middle class tax cuts, like the Recovery Act and the Tax Assistance Act of 2010. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, which will make a few small, but important changes to the administration of our tax laws.

There is no question that April 15th is the most feared date on the Calendar. It is viewed with dread for good reason.

The tax code is mind-numbingly confusing. It is a maze of forms and schedules and instructions that turns the simplest tax form into a lengthy challenge and that forces millions of Americans to turn to help, whether from an accountant, a professional tax preparer, or one of the many computer software programs designed for this purpose.

The bill before us does make a few good changes to the code, including a provision long championed by Congressman SAM JOHNSON, a true American hero, that will end the long outdated requirement that employers record and report their employees' personal use of company-provided cell phones and Blackberries.

Another provision worthy of support will require the IRS to notify taxpayers they suspect have been victims of identity theft. That certainly makes sense.

And for those taxpayers who do file their returns electronically, this bill will shorten the time the IRS has to pay refunds before interest accrues. This is a taxpayer friendly provision that will encourage electronic filing, which is both faster and cheaper for the government.

Finally, let me express my thanks to Congressman BECERRA for making some changes to this bill that helped secure my support.

As introduced, the bill would have established a new authorization of up to \$20 million per year to fund Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Centers. The IRS has funded these programs in the past without authorization, which is troubling enough. But of even more concern is the fact that ACORN was a recipient of these funds.

Today, we know how badly ACORN was abusing the public trust, and I do applaud the IRS for heeding our call and canceling those contracts when the extent of ACORN's misconduct came to light.

But I don't yet have confidence that the government will avoid a similar mistake in the future and again fund groups like ACORN. Simply put, Congress should not authorize these grants until we know who will be receiving them and how they will be used.

And so I thank Mr. BECERRA for agreeing to remove this language to allow the Congress to examine the issue more closely.

I urge a "yes" vote on the bill.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4994, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF WILMA PEARL MANKILLER

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1237) honoring the life of Wilma Pearl Mankiller and expressing condolences of the House of Representatives on her passing.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1237

Whereas Wilma was born November 18, 1945, at Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and had her roots planted deep in the rural community of Mankiller Flats in Adair County, Oklahoma, where she spent most of her life;

Whereas at age 10, her family moved to San Francisco as part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Relocation Program where she lived for two decades before returning to Oklahoma in 1977;

Whereas upon returning to Oklahoma, Wilma found a job as a community coordinator at the Cherokee Nation capital and enrolled in graduate courses at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville;

Whereas in 1983 Wilma ran for the office of Deputy Chief alongside Ross Swimmer, then Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, and the two won the election and took office in August, 1983;

Whereas on December 5, 1985, Wilma was sworn in to replace Chief Swimmer as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, making her the first female to hold the office;

Whereas Wilma was formally elected to serve as the first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1987, and was overwhelmingly re-elected in 1991;

Whereas during her time as Principal Chief, Wilma focused on education and health care, overseeing the construction of new schools, job-training centers, health clinics, community development, and a award winning housing and water projects in low-income communities;

Whereas over the course of her three terms, Wilma made great strides to reinstate the traditional Cherokee culture and values, especially the role of women, reinvigorating the Cherokee Nation through community development projects where men and women work collectively for the common good;

Whereas during Wilma's tenure she transformed the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the Federal Government, met with Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton to present critical tribal issues, and co-chaired a national conference between tribal leaders and cabinet members, which helped facilitate the establishment of an Office of Indian Justice within the U.S. Department of Justice;

Whereas upon leaving office Wilma continued her endeavors, serving on several philanthropic boards, including 12 years on the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation, 4 years on the Board of the Ms. Foundation for Women, and 4 years on the board of the Seventh Generation Fund and the board of the Freedom Forum and its subsidiary, the Newseum;

Whereas Wilma presented more than 100 lectures on the challenges facing Native Americans and women in the 21st century and she served as the Wayne Morse Professor at the University of Oregon for the fall semester of 2005 where she taught class on tribal government, law, and life;

Whereas Wilma held Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Yale University, Dartmouth College, Smith College, Mills College, Northern Arizona University, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University, Tulsa University, Drury College, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Rhode Island College, New England University, and Northeastern State University;

Whereas Wilma held many honors, including the Montgomery Fellowship, Dartmouth College; The Chubb Fellowship, Timothy Dwight College, Yale University; San Francisco State University, Hall of Fame; an Francisco State Alumna of the Year (1988), International Women of Distinction Award, Alpha Delta Kappa, Oklahoma Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, National Women's Hall of Fame, International Women's Forum Hall of Fame, Minority Business Hall of Fame, and she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by then President Bill Clinton for her vision and commitment to a brighter future for all Americans;

Whereas Wilma published several works, including "Every Day is a Good Day", Fulcrum Publishing 2004, "Mankiller: A Chief and Her People", co-authored, St. Martin's Press 1993, "A Reader's Companion to the History of Women in the U.S.", co-edited, Houghton-Mifflin 1998, and she contributed to many other publications, including an essay for Native Universe, the inaugural publication of the National Museum of the American Indian;

Whereas upon the announcement of her diagnoses in March of 2010, Wilma offered words of inspiration: "I want my family and friends to know that I am mentally and spiritually prepared for this journey; a journey that all human beings will take at one time or another. I learned a long time ago that I can't control the challenges the Creator sends my way but I can control the way I think about them and deal with them. On balance, I have been blessed with an extraordinarily rich and wonderful life, filled with incredible experiences. And I am grateful to have a support team composed of loving family and friends. I will be spending my time with my family and close friends and engaging in activities I enjoy. It's been my privilege to meet and be touched by thousands of people in my life and I regret not being able to deliver this message personally to so many of you";

Whereas Chief Mankiller's final days were not marred by the impending sorrow of her departure, but glowing reminiscence of her influence in years past; and

Whereas Chief Mankiller passed away in the morning hours of April 6, 2010, at her home in rural Adair County, Oklahoma: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives expresses—

(1) gratitude to Wilma Mankiller for her significant contributions to the Nation, an inspiration to women in Indian Country and across America, and for leaving a profound legacy that will continue to encourage and motivate all who carry on her work; and

(2) deep sorrow at the passing of Chief Mankiller and condolences to her friends and family, especially her husband Charlie and two daughters, Gina and Felicia, as well as the Cherokee Nation and all those who knew her and were touched by her good works.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great woman, a lady who has been an inspiration to women and also throughout Indian country, Chief Wilma Pearl Mankiller.

On the morning of April 6, 2010, Chief Wilma Mankiller, the first female leader of the Cherokee Nation, steward of Native American cultural traditions, and an advocate for advancing the role of women in tribal affairs, passed away at her home in rural Adair County, Oklahoma.

Chief Mankiller was a passionate activist for the continued enhancement of native peoples and one of the country's most visible American Indian luminaries. From her birth on November 18, 1945, at the small Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to her service as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Wilma celebrated and nurtured her intense tribal heritage which was deeply rooted in a connection to the rural community of Mankiller Flats, Adair County, where she spent a large part of her life.

As an accomplished social activist for Indian prosperity, she devoted all her energies to the well-being of Native Americans and to expanding roles for women through her participation in organizations like the Ford Foundation, the Seventh Generation Fund, and the Freedom Forum. She also reinstated dialogue between the Cherokee Nation and the Federal Government, which ultimately helped establish the Office of Indian Justice.

Wilma received numerous accolades for her tireless efforts at improving the general welfare of both Indian country and our Nation, not the least of which was the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to her by President Bill Clinton.

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Despite all of her great personal accomplishments, Chief Mankiller desired only "to be remembered as the person who helped us restore faith in ourselves."

To fulfill that wish and to honor her, I have introduced this resolution in gratitude to Chief Wilma Mankiller for her significant contributions and service to the Nation. She remains an inspiration to women in Indian Country and across America, and she leaves be-

hind a profound legacy which will continue to encourage and to motivate all who carry on her work.

Finally, I would like to express our deepest condolences on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives to her friends and her family, especially to her husband, Charlie Soap, and to the entire Cherokee Nation for the loss of this wonderful lady.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. At this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, Wilma Mankiller led a remarkable life. As my friend Congressman BOREN so eloquently stated, her beginnings were awfully humble. Frankly, they didn't get much better for a long time. She traveled to California, and unlike a lot of Oklahomans, did not find the prosperity that so many had found, so she returned home and went to work for the Cherokee Nation. For over a decade, she worked through a succession of posts of increasing responsibility. Eventually, she became, of course, the principal chief of the second largest Indian tribe in America, the first woman to do so and arguably the best leader the tribe has had since its removal from North Carolina to Oklahoma.

During her tenure as chief, she more than tripled the number of Cherokees. She doubled tribal employment. She added dozens of programs in nutrition, social services, education, and cultural awareness. Frankly, she made the Cherokee Nation even more than it was—a force to be reckoned with, but a beneficent force, not only in northeast Oklahoma, not only within the lives of its citizens, but, quite frankly, in Indian Country and in American politics.

She was recognized for her extraordinary achievements over a lifetime—honorary degrees, boards and foundations and, of course, again, as my colleague and friend Mr. BOREN mentioned, the highest civilian award that any American can receive, the Medal of Freedom.

I knew Wilma Mankiller very well. She led a life based on principles. The first one was just absolute personal integrity. She was one of the most honest and honorable people I had ever met in my life. The second was humility. She was the most approachable person you would ever want to know. She had a total lack of pretension, and she believed very profoundly in service to others—in service, yes, to her tribe; in service, yes, to Native Americans; but in service beyond, as a creed and as a value, that she lived and acted on every single day of her life.

She was a remarkable person to talk to because she was completely candid in her conversations, which is very unusual, particularly for a political figure. If you are chief of the Cherokee Nation, I can assure you, you are a considerable and skillful politician in your own right. On many occasions, I re-

member getting advice, and I remember her speaking in a very unvarnished way. I can't count the number of times that I heard her say in speeches when she got up—she loved to speak truth to power—that she identified herself: either I am or have been the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. If the United States Government had had its way, I would never have been a chief; there would never have been a Cherokee Nation or it would have ended, and also tribes would have been eliminated. That is where she began her conversation.

She was a role model, of course, to women and to Native Americans everywhere, particularly to my mother, who was the first Native American elected to the State Senate in Oklahoma. She was a close friend of Chief Mankiller's. Like me, my mother admired her quite profoundly.

As a leader, she was always principled; she was determined; she was visionary, but she was supremely practical in her political pursuits. She was tough; she was shrewd; she was dedicated to the Cherokee people, and she was dedicated to Native Americans. She was an extraordinarily fierce defender of the concept of tribal sovereignty. She understood it in her bones; she advocated it and, frankly, enhanced it, not only for her own people but for Native Americans everywhere.

Having said that, she was always willing to partner with anyone. It didn't matter what your point of view was. It didn't matter what your values were. She was a very devoted Democrat. My mother was a very fierce Republican. They found common ground again and again on issue after issue.

In closing, I want to join my friend Mr. BOREN in expressing my profound sympathy to her family, obviously to the great Cherokee Nation and to Native Americans everywhere. I mean this with all sincerity that I have not seen her like before in my life. I don't think any of us will see her like again.

Mr. BOREN. At this time, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank both of my colleagues from Oklahoma for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I had the great honor of working with Chief Wilma Mankiller in my service on the Resources Committee and as Chair of that committee. She was a magnificent person, and we honor her as one of the great women in American history. She was all of the things that my colleagues have said, but when she came through your door, you knew you were about to do business. She was also very quick to humor and very often would use humor as well as she would use knowledge in disarming those who opposed her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BOREN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I had a real opportunity to work integrally with her on the issues of sovereignty at a time when the Supreme Court was attacking at that moment some very essential parts of tribal sovereignty.

I am sorry to hear of her passing; but I have great, great memories of working with her, of her leadership, of her advocacy, of her passion, and of her running so true to her values no matter what the situation. If she couldn't succeed today, she'd be back tomorrow. Very often, she was.

Thank you again so very much for this resolution, which recognizes the contributions of this outstanding woman to the history of our country.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which honors the life of Wilma Mankiller, and I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the previous speakers in expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on her passing.

There are many of us who did not have the opportunity to meet Wilma Mankiller. Nonetheless, as we deal with Indian affairs in Congress, all of us touch some part of the legacy of her accomplishments left to the great Cherokee Nation and Indian Country.

In a recent article on her death, Cherokee Chief Chad Smith states that she was a patriot for the Cherokee Nation. In 1998, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in recognition for her success as an Indian leader.

Though Wilma Mankiller is further honored today by the House resolution, what stands out is the outpouring of grief from the Cherokee citizens upon hearing the news of her death. I think her greatest honor is the esteem and respect in which she was held by her fellow Cherokee people.

I commend the gentleman from Oklahoma for sponsoring this resolution and for ensuring its consideration on the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, just a few closing comments. I have a quote from the President of the United States, Barack Obama:

"I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Wilma Mankiller today. As the Cherokee Nation's first female chief, she transformed the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the Federal Government, and served as an inspiration to women in Indian Country and across America. A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, she was recognized for her vision and commitment to a brighter future for all Americans. Her legacy will continue to encourage and motivate all who carry on her work."

"Michelle and I offer our condolences to Wilma's family, especially her husband, Charlie, and two daughters Gina

and Felicia, as well as the Cherokee Nation, and all those who knew her and were touched by her good works."

I would just like to say I knew Wilma as a young boy. I got to meet Wilma through many festivals and pow-wows with my father when he served in the U.S. Senate. She was always so kind, and she was always lending advice to me. Then after I was elected to Congress—and Congressman COLE was very correct—the term I would say is "blunt"—she was very blunt in her political advice. She would call me whenever something would happen within the Cherokee Nation or here in Congress and would give me some advice, very direct advice, and she was always right in her advice. We are going to miss her deeply.

So, in closing, I would ask my colleagues to support this resolution to honor this great woman.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Native American Caucus, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1237, a resolution recognizing and honoring the life of Wilma Pearl Mankiller. Chief Mankiller was an ardent advocate for the Native American community and an inspiration to the rest of the nation, and I am proud to support this resolution honoring her.

I would like to thank Congressman BOREN for authoring this important resolution, and House Majority Leader STENY HOYER and Speaker NANCY PELOSI for their skill and leadership in bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Wilma Mankiller inspired Native American women and girls across the United States when she became principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, the second largest tribe in the United States. Born November 18, 1945 on family land at Mankiller Flats near Rocky Mountain, Oklahoma, she attended San Francisco University, where she became an activist for Native American causes. Chief Mankiller's political career began when she was elected deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1983, before becoming principal chief in 1985.

This accomplishment gave her the opportunity and platform to become an unyielding activist for the continued enhancement of the indigenous population. She was successful in establishing tribally owned businesses, such as horticultural operations, improving infrastructure, and building a hydroelectric facility. In addition to this important work, she also advocated for Native American and women's issues by improving federal and tribal negotiations, as well as through her participation in organizations like the Ford Foundation, the Seventh Generation Fund, and the Freedom Forum. Because of her tireless efforts towards improving the general welfare of Native Americans, Chief Mankiller has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of this extraordinary woman. Her work and dedication have improved the lives of Native Americans across the country, as well as given Americans across the country a better understanding of the Native American community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1237.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1237.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING COAL MINERS FROM UPPER BIG BRANCH MINE IN WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1236) honoring the coal miners who perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine-South in Raleigh County, West Virginia, extending condolences to their families and recognizing the valiant efforts of emergency response workers at the mine disaster.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 1236

Whereas coal mining is a time-honored profession and miners and their families have shaped the history and rich culture of West Virginia and the Nation;

Whereas the Nation is greatly indebted to coal miners for the difficult and dangerous work they perform to provide the fuel needed to keep the Nation strong and secure;

Whereas the Nation has long recognized the importance of health and safety protections for miners who labor in extreme and dangerous conditions;

Whereas accidents in the Nation's mines have again and again taken the lives of coal miners;

Whereas 29 West Virginia miners tragically perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine-South following an explosion on April 5, 2010;

Whereas this was the worst coal mining disaster in the Nation over the last 40 years;

Whereas Federal, State, and local rescue crews worked tirelessly night and day in courageous rescue and recovery efforts;

Whereas the families of the fallen miners have suffered immeasurable loss; and

Whereas residents of Raleigh County and throughout West Virginia came together to support the miners' families: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the ultimate sacrifice made by the 29 coal miners lost at the Upper Big Branch Mine-South, Raleigh County, West Virginia;

(2) extends the deepest condolences of the Nation to the families of these men;

(3) recognizes all coal miners for enduring the loss of their coworkers and maintaining courage throughout this ordeal;

(4) commends the rescue crews for their valiant efforts to find these miners; and

(5) honors the many volunteers who provided support and comfort for the miners' families during the rescue and recovery operations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from