

with Oliver Young and John Smith in clearing trees near Wilson pond. It was just over a decade later that Henry Gower built the Seboomook House, and Greenville was incorporated from the Haskell Plantation.

In many ways, the history of Greenville stands in line with much of the State. Its residents have been farmers, lumbermen and mill workers. But somewhere between the cascades of Wilson's stream and the breathtaking vistas atop Indian Hill, the town puts forth its own unique identity. As the gateway to Moosehead and the Northern Woods, Greenville attracts thousands of visitors every year to witness the International Seaplane Fly-in, to ride the "Kate" up the lake or to camp in Maine's storied forests.

On August 27, this small town will celebrate its birthday with a week full of events and festivities commemorating this special milestone. I am pleased to share in the celebration as Greenville looks back on 175 years of rich and varied history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing all the citizens of Greenville, Maine, well on this joyous occasion.

IN MEMORY OF LEONARD EARL
ROBERTS, SR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a tribute commemorating the life of Leonard Earl Roberts, Sr., a great husband, father, staff sergeant, and engineer. Mr. Roberts passed away last week, leaving a legacy of service to his family, friends, faith, community, and country. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Roberts and his lovely wife Mrs. Dessie Roberts during a visit to Washington a few years ago. I know that all who were close to him reflect on his memory with respect, admiration, and pride. While I did not know Mr. Roberts for an extended time, his grandson Marcus Mason is a great friend; I might add that his great-granddaughter Taelor served as an intern in my office for several summers. Mr. Roberts epitomized the Greatest Generation and a life well lived. I would like to submit the following heartfelt obituary for Mr. Roberts, written by his family.

THE LEGACY

"I hope you don't mind if we put down in words, how wonderful life has been with you in the world."

December 30, 1925—Leonard Earl Roberts, Sr. entered the world at the height of the Harlem Renaissance. Born to Mary Queen Dorsey in Vidalia, Louisiana, Leonard Sr. was the eldest of five. Two brothers and one sister have preceded him in death. He attended and completed his secondary school education at Madison Parish Training School in Tallulah, Louisiana where he was an academic high achiever. He began demonstrating his engineering acuity by creating a hand carved, functioning orchestra that remained on display in the sandbox for several years following his graduation.

Leonard Sr. was no stranger to meeting and overcoming adversity. In his desire to serve his country he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at the young age of sixteen, where he participated in the efforts to rebuild our nation's infrastructure, sup-

porting the economic recovery efforts from the Great Depression of the 1930s. Later that year, Leonard Sr. answered the call of his personal conviction and love of country and voluntarily enlisted in the US Army. Leonard Sr. stepped forward to defend our country following the events of Pearl Harbor, despite being under age. He quickly advanced to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Leonard Sr. was in the first wave to land on Omaha Beach during the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944 as part of Operation Overlord, coined D-Day by the world. He successfully led his platoon on many battles until his honorable discharge on December 7, 1945 at the close of the war. His entire outfit received the Bronze Indian Arrowhead for Assault Trooper, the Cor-De-Guerre, France's highest military honor, and several other medals and honors.

Upon his return home, he quickly sought, found and married his childhood sweetheart, and life-long love and soul mate, Dessie. Leonard Sr. and Dessie began to build their family while also engaging in his academic pursuits. Leonard Sr. moved to Boston, Massachusetts, taking advantage of the GI Bill, made available to WWII veterans, where he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and received his Engineering degree. Leonard Sr. began his family while in Las Vegas, NV and became father to Donna, Janet and Leonard Jr.

Leonard Sr. moved his family to Los Angeles, California, where Jacqueline and Keith were born, to begin his lifelong career in the aerospace industry. He designed a four axis machine for specialized production of precision oversized aircraft parts which revolutionized the industry. In 1972, Leonard Sr. established Roberts Aerospace Manufacturing Engineering Corporation (RAMEC) and continued to receive coveted government contracts as a result of his expertise in precision manufacturing for nearly four decades until the time of his passing. He was well known in the industry as a man of integrity.

After supporting his wife's philanthropic pursuits in Christianity and community service for over fifty years, Leonard Sr. or "Mr. Honey" as he was often referred to by members of the sororities Order of the Eastern Star and Top Ladies of Distinction, joined First African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1998 where he attended faithfully. Leonard Sr. valued God, Country and family above all else, demonstrated by his marriage to Dessie for sixty-five years and his commitment to his children Donna, Janet, Leonard, Jr., Jacqueline and Keith. His love will live forever in the hearts of his grandchildren Allen Talbert, Kellie Clay (deceased), Chanel Troy-Thompson, Danielle Benoit-Williams, Natalie Roberts, Raquel Roberts-Richards and Bridgette Craddock and great-grandchildren Taelor Chanel Mason, Jeraud, Jeremiah Jr. and Jehman Williams, Carl Quincy Clay, II, Lauren, Sydney and Brandon Talbert, and Rameses Earl Roberts Richards.

Leonard Sr. will be lovingly remembered by his sister Dottie, his nieces Cheri, Donna and Shanel along with a host of other relatives and friends.

He recently imparted the profound statement to his loved ones, a motto which he lived by, "Everything is manageable in a family." Leonard Sr. lived his life by anticipating the outcome of an effort before beginning the task.

On Tuesday, July 5th God descended to call him home. It mattered not how straight the gate or how charged with punishment the scroll, Leonard Sr. was the master of his fate, he was the captain of his soul.

BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the BULB Act. Plain and simple—this bill will hurt our competitive advantage against China.

As my colleagues on the other side of the aisle bring this bill to the floor to take a step backwards & repeal light bulb efficiency, China gets it and they're leaping forward. This year China is spending over a billion dollars to make energy efficient lighting. China knows they can save consumers money while putting their country on track to create the largest LED industry in the world.

With efficiency requirements, we can compete. We can create American jobs making better light bulbs that meet the new standards. More than 2,000 jobs have already been created at factories around the country. In the U.S., there are between 12,000 to 14,000 jobs related to lighting.

I do not want to send those jobs to China by handing over the next generation lighting industry to them. The light bulb has been a symbol of American ingenuity since the late 1800s. When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, it revolutionized our economy and electricity around the world. If America wants to lead, we need to become more efficient. That is the way of the future. Already, the new standards are prompting manufacturers to build new plants and create jobs making more energy efficient lighting here. In my Congressional District, Veeco has done just that. Veeco's employee count on Long Island has doubled from 150–300 from 2009 to 2011.

Lighting manufacturers have invested millions of dollars to develop new lighting technologies and improve old ones so they're 30 percent more efficient by the end of this year.

Efficiency isn't about saving energy. It's about saving money and giving consumers a solid return on their investment. The BULB Act does nothing to save our constituents money.

Current standards would save the average American family \$100 on their electricity bills. I know my constituents want that \$100 in their pockets.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill to help save money and energy while supporting U.S. manufacturing.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAKING
WORK AND MARRIAGE PAY ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Making Work and Marriage Pay Act of 2011. This legislation will establish a bipartisan commission to study the negative impact that high effective marginal rates can have on families as they attempt to improve their circumstances through work or marriage. The National Commission on Effective Marginal Tax Rates for Low-Income Families would provide an important opportunity for removing the

disincentives that hold many back, in spite of their personal efforts to get ahead.

Federal and state governments provide financial assistance to low-income families through many means-tested programs and a variety of income tax credits. Each of these benefits is income-based, and as income rises benefits are reduced through phase-outs. These reductions occur at various earnings levels and on differing schedules.

While it is appropriate for benefits to be withdrawn as family income increases, not enough thought has been given to the combined impact on behavior of these multiple phase-outs. Different programs are created within separate Congressional committees and are implemented by assorted federal and state agencies. No one entity has the authority to consider our vast system as a whole. The Commission established under this Act would be given this task and charged with the responsibility to propose a legislative package to remove the disincentives to work and marriage that these high effective marginal rates impose.

Marginal rates matter. Economists have long contended that high tax rates affect the investment decisions of affluent individuals. People at all income levels, however, respond rationally to economic incentives and disincentives. If we want people to work their way into the middle class, we need to change a system which says that if you're poor and you struggle to earn a higher income, you won't be able to keep enough of it to make it all seem really worthwhile.

I have looked at the impact these marginal rates have on a typical single mother with two children living in Wisconsin. From \$17,000 to \$40,000 in earnings, this single parent would experience combined effective marginal tax rates in excess of 50 percent—averaging 59 percent between \$24,000 and \$41,000. At lower income levels, she even approaches a rate of 100 percent. Putting this into perspective, the U.S. corporate tax rate is 35 percent (one of the highest in the industrialized world). The highest U.S. income tax rate for individuals is also 35 percent.

Thus, for every dollar of new income earned by increased effort or the acquisition of new skills, this single mother finds herself only incrementally ahead and, perhaps, wondering whether her hard work is being justly rewarded. Despite the good intentions, these programs, in effect, offer no incentive to get ahead. Rather, the incentives are backwards and low-income workers often are encouraged to stay where they are.

The same dynamic can also affect an individual's decision whether to marry. Experts from across the political divide agree that marriage is good. Government policy, however, as enacted in this assortment of programs and phase-outs actually discourages marriage among low-income couples.

Varying benefit levels across the fifty states produce different results, but in Wisconsin, for a married couple with two children, the marriage penalty starts rising from about zero at \$19,000 of combined income to \$7,000 in after-tax income at \$28,000 of combined earnings, which is what you get if two people earn minimum wage. At \$42,000, the cost of being married reaches \$8,154. That's a high price for a marriage license.

This penalty results from the high effective marginal tax rates produced by taxes and the

phase-out of various benefit programs. As income rises, taxes go up and benefits go down. The couple that has combined their lives and their income sees a steeper loss of income than does the comparable couple that has remained unmarried. If marriage is a recognized good for both society and the individual couples, then government policy should not stand in the way of people choosing to marry.

It's time that Congress rationalizes this web of programs to ensure that hard work brings rewards by removing the punishingly high effective marginal tax rates faced by low-income individuals and families.

This is why I am introducing the Making Work and Marriage Pay Act.

My bill would authorize a Commission made up of Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, and recognized policy experts to recommend solutions for the problems posed by these high effective marginal tax rates. The Commission would be constructed to achieve partisan balance, input from states offering a varying level of income support, and expert participation from government and private sector experts.

The Commission would be charged with seeking a solution along certain policy lines, but would have full authority to offer additional policy recommendations. The Commission's recommendations would be in the form of a legislative blueprint to ease consideration of its comprehensive solution by the wide range of Congressional committees.

For too long, Congress has neglected to clean up the mess of uncoordinated federal benefit programs. The Making Work and Marriage Pay Act is the first step toward a benefit structure that rewards work and effort and reflects our shared belief that marriage is the basis of stable communities. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting notice that I will not be able to attend the legislative sessions of the House of Representatives on the following dates that are currently scheduled. I will be absent from July 19 through July 22 and from August 2 through August 5 for the marriages of my daughter and my son.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2011 "FORTY UNDER 40" AWARD FOR EMERGING MAINE LEADERS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate MaineTodayMedia and the Recipients of the 2011 "Forty under 40" Award for Emerging Maine Leaders.

The "Forty under 40" Award is given annually by MaineTodayMedia to talented individuals under the age of forty who are making

significant contributions to their career field and to the community at large. The award honors Maine's emerging generation of leaders by acknowledging their achievement and recognizing their potential. These fresh faces represent the future of our state as they come to fill the big shoes left by Maine's historic line of leaders.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize these distinguished individuals by name:

Wendy Ayotte, Jeff Badger, Josh Broder, Rob Brown, Kevin Bunker, Adam Burk, Lindsay Cadawallader, Michael Carey, Eric Conlon, Josh Davis, Gibson Fay-LeBlanc, Chelsea Fournier, Ben Fowlie, David Gulak, Shannon Haines, Erik Hayward, David Herring, Jr., Geoffrey Iacussa, Drew Johnson, Charlie Longo.

Becky McKinnell, Corey Norman, Amanda O'Brien, Robert O'Brien, Shiraz Patterson, Marc Pitman, Monica Quimby, Erica Quin-Easter, Brian Rayback, Jeremy Reynolds, Steve Sawczyn, Matthew Siegel, MD, Andrew Sigfridson, Liz Smith, Andrew Tenenbaum, Jesse Thompson, Scott Townsend, Jenna Vendil, Sean Wilkinson, Megan Williams.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating all the recipients of the 2011 "Forty under 40" Award for Emerging Maine Leaders and in thanking MaineTodayMedia for shining the spotlight on these outstanding individuals.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,342,977,065,892.73.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,704,551,319,598.93 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

CONGRATULATING TRINITY BALLPARK FOR HOSTING C.A.B.A. MIDWEST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate, Trinity Ballpark located in Noblesville, Indiana, for hosting this year's C.A.B.A. Midwest National Championship.

The Continental Amateur Baseball Association was developed by Ron Golden and Roger Tremaine in 1984 to provide youth the privilege to compete at the national level. C.A.B.A. hosts events at the national level for age groups 9–18. Since C.A.B.A. was first started, thousands of teams from nearly every state along with other countries including Panama,