

INTRODUCTION OF THE "TAX
CODE TERMINATION ACT"**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, last night we gathered in this Chamber to hear President Obama deliver his State of the Union Address. I was particularly encouraged to hear the President say, "the best thing we could do on taxes for all Americans is to simplify the individual tax code." The President stated he was prepared to join both parties in simplifying our tax code. I join the President in calling for a simplified tax code, and I rise today to introduce the Tax Code Termination Act. This legislation can be the impetus for overhauling our tax system.

The fact is our current tax system has spiraled out of control. At a time when Americans devote a total of 7 billion hours each year to comply with the tax code, we need tax simplification. Today's tax code is unfair, discourages savings and investment, and is impossibly complex. The Tax Code Termination Act will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform. This bi-partisan legislation is simple. It will abolish the Internal Revenue Code by December 31, 2015, and call on Congress to approve a new Federal tax system by July of the same year.

While almost every Member would acknowledge that our tax code is no longer working in a fair manner for Americans, nothing has been done to create a more equitable tax code. Congress won't act on fundamental tax reform unless it is forced to do so. My bill will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform.

Once this bill becomes law, today's oppressive tax code would survive for only four more years, at which time it would expire and be replaced with a new tax code that will be determined by Congress, the President, and the American people. This legislation will allow us, as a Nation, to collectively decide what the new tax system should look like. Having a date-certain to end the current tax code will force the issue to the top of the national agenda.

Although many questions remain about the best way to reform our tax system, I am certain that if Congress is forced to address the issue we can create a tax code that is simpler, fairer, and better for our economy than the one we are forced to comply with today.

Whichever tax system is adopted, the key ingredients should be: a low rate for all Americans; tax relief for working people; protection of the rights of taxpayers and reduction in tax collection abuses; promotion of savings and investment; and encouragement of economic growth and job creation. Taxes may be unavoidable but they don't have to be unfair and overcomplicated.

Just like other programs that require reauthorization, the tax code must be reviewed to examine whether it is fulfilling its intended purpose and then Congress must make any changes that are necessary.

America's future depends on overcoming the handicap of the current tax code. There is widespread consensus that the current system is broken, and keeping it is not in America's best interest. I urge my colleagues to support

this legislation and end the broken tax system that exists today.

IN HONOR OF SGT. ZAINAH C.
CREAMER**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero who was a respected and dedicated officer in the United States Army. On January 12, 2011, our state and nation lost a great patriot when Sergeant Zainah C. Creamer, aged 28, was killed in the line of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt. Creamer died in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near her unit.

Sgt. Creamer was born in Texarkana, Texas, and graduated from Arkansas High School in Texarkana, Ark., in 2000. Although I never had the honor of meeting Sgt. Creamer, it is clear by the outpouring of praise from her friends and family that she was a special person who deeply loved her country and never hesitated to help those in need. I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of all Arkansans to her family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances for this devastating loss.

Sgt. Creamer was assigned to the 212th Military Police Detachment, Headquarters Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Va. She was a soldier for more than six years and was an Army dog handler serving her second deployment with the 2nd Battalion of the 502nd Infantry Regiment.

With her bravery and dedication to duty, Sgt. Creamer exemplified what it meant to be a U.S. soldier; she made this nation and her family proud. My deepest thoughts and prayers go out to all of her family and friends during this very difficult time.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Army Sergeant Zainah C. Creamer and her legacy, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT D.
BUNTING**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Robert D. Bunting, who is retiring after 27 years of law enforcement service—21 and a half years of service to the City of Fairfield and five and a half years with the Calistoga Police Department. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Robert started his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the Calistoga Police

Department. He was then hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on June 12, 1989. As an officer, he worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Firearms Instruction, and Field Training. Robert joined the Special Activity Felony Enforcement, SAFE, Team in 1992 and was promoted to Police Corporal on September 20, 2002.

On February 4, 2005, Robert was promoted to Police Sergeant and ultimately supervised a number of different teams including Violent Crime Suppression, Special Enforcement, and Patrol. Since being promoted to Police Lieutenant on May 9, 2008, he has served as the Commander for the Major Crimes Division, Patrol, and Public Information. Not only was Robert a capable and decisive leader but he also demonstrated resourcefulness, teamwork, and a devotion to duty which led to him receiving a Distinguished Service Medal in 2007. Additionally, he has received numerous commendations from community members, local businesses, and supervisors during his career.

Robert was a valued employee and leader of the Fairfield Police Department. His commitment to the community was unwavering. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired amongst his peers for his hard work, dedication and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Robert D. Bunting continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSI-
NESS DURING TENURE ON BUDG-
ET COMMITTEE**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following letters:

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI,
U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER PELOSI, This letter is to advise you that, effective today, I am taking a leave of absence from the Committee on Small Business until my tenure on the Committee on the Budget is completed. It is my understanding from Clause C of Rule 19 of the Democratic Caucus rules (referenced below) that I will continue to accrue seniority during the leave of absence, at the same rate as if I had continued to serve on the Committee on Small Business.

Rule 19, Clause C: "Any Member of the Committee on the Budget shall be entitled to take a leave of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee during the period he or she serves on the Budget Committee and seniority rights of such Member on such committee and on each subcommittee to which such Member was assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if such Member had continued to so serve during the period of the leave of absence."

Accompanying this letter is a letter from the Democratic Leader verifying that my seniority on the Committee on Small Business will continue to accrue during my absence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HEATH SHULER,
Member of Congress.

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Hon. HEATH SHULER,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR HEATH: Thank you for your interest in serving on the House Budget Committee in the 112th Congress. According to the Democratic Caucus rules, members are entitled to take a leave of absence from their standing committee until their tenure on the Budget Committee is complete. Thus, your full seniority on the Small Business Committee shall be fully protected for the duration of your service on the Budget Committee.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic
Leader.

ROSA DELAURO,
Co-Chair House
Democratic Steering
& Policy Committee.

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Democratic Steering and Policy Committee,
Chairwoman ROSA DELAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO: This letter is to advise you that, effective today, I am taking a leave of absence from the Committee on Small Business until my tenure on the Committee on the Budget is completed. It is my understanding from Clause C of Rule 19 of the Democratic Caucus rules (referenced below) that I will continue to accrue seniority during the leave of absence, at the same rate as if I had continued to serve on the Committee on Small Business.

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Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic
Leader.

ROSA DELAURO,
Co-Chair House Demo-
cratic Steering &
Policy Committee.

HONORING RESIDENTS OF THE
VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS,
ILLINOIS ON THEIR 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY AS A VILLAGE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of Western Springs, Illinois, a village in my district and my hometown, which will celebrate its quasicentennial anniversary on January 30, 2011.

Western Springs enjoys a long and colorful history beginning in the early 19th century. The area, originally consisting of swampland and flat plains, was settled by a small population of farmers in 1834. These rural families enjoyed a very quiet life until the CB&Q Railroad arrived in 1863. New construction filled the swamps and the Western Springs Land Association purchased the three tracts of land on which Western Springs now sits for \$105,000.

Many of the area's earliest inhabitants were Quaker, so the town adopted a personality that included a simple lifestyle and a prohibition of alcohol. Eventually, developer Thomas Clarkson Hill moved to the area and helped to organize the community to attract more residents. Area inhabitants built a school house in 1872 and a post office in 1873 and as more new immigrants arrived, Quaker influence dwindled. After several more community projects, the Village of Western Springs incorporated in 1886, named for the mineral springs to the southwest of the town.

In 1890, the Village hired Edgar and Benezette Williams to design and build a waterworks system after the local water springs were depleted. The famous Western Springs Water Tower was part of that project and still stands 112 feet tall as a National Register Historic Place.

Western Springs' other most historic site is the Ekdahl House, built by August Ekdahl as a general store. The general store was one of the town's first businesses and later served as a post office. The building is now a museum where local residents can learn about the history of their village. The preservation of the Water Tower and the Ekdahl house can be attributed to the efforts of the determined members of the Western Springs Historical Society.

Although Western Springs has come a long way since its days as a Quaker farm settlement, it is still a safe and quiet town as demonstrated by its being named by Business Week a "Great Place to Raise Kids" and one of CNN Money's "Best Places to Live." My wife Judy and I are proud to be counted among the Village's 12,493 residents. I will gather with my fellow Western Springs residents at McClure Junior High on January 30th to celebrate the Village's 125th year. We will enjoy festivities including a giant tower cake, ice skating, and a bonfire, along with honoring the 2010 Citizens of the Year.

I ask you to join me in honoring the residents of Western Springs, Illinois on their 125th anniversary as a village. May they enjoy this weekend's celebration and may the Village continue to thrive as a close community.

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF
NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, parents across this country have taken a stand, and they are demanding more academic choices for their children. In that spirit, I would like to highlight that this week, January 23–29, marks the inaugural "National School Choice Week," an event that promotes giving parents a choice on education.

The mission of National School Choice Week is simple: we need a K–12 education system that provides a wide array of options. We need an effective education system that has the flexibility to personalize and motivate students and allow parents to choose the school that is best for their child.

To provide a system of learning that meets the needs of tomorrow's students, we need to empower the parents, teachers and school systems today. I am honored to take this opportunity to champion this cause and the individual freedom to choose. I believe that promoting educational choice for parents and students is a vital part of the educational process. Our students deserve the best teachers, facilities, and studying environments. I am proud to say that I am "all in" for National School Choice Week.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BLACK
JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the people of Azerbaijan in remembrance of the tragic events of Black January, when at midnight of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops stormed the capital city of Baku with tanks and armored vehicles.

That night the Soviet military machine intended to restore public order by bulldozing innocent people and firing on peaceful demonstrators, including on women and children. According to Azerbaijani records, as a result of this merciless act authorized by then President Mikhail Gorbachev, 130 people died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested, and 5 went missing.

Human Rights groups have condemned the Baku incursion for its attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals. The punishment inflicted by Soviet soldiers was intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union. The Soviet use of force in Baku was a desperate attempt to rescue the totalitarian regime. However, Black January had the opposite effect on Azerbaijan. It consolidated the rising independence movements in the country and united the Azerbaijani nation in their quest for freedom.

Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country and has become an essential partner of the United States in the region, collaborating on strengthening energy security and working together to counter terrorism and extremism. I would like to thank the Azerbaijani