

REMEMBERING REVEREND
WILLIAM KELLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life and ministry of Reverend William Keller.

Reverend Keller faithfully served as a pastor for nearly 70 years in both Illinois and my home state of Indiana. While attending Olivet Nazarene College in 1943, he founded the East Side Church of the Nazarene in Kankakee, Illinois. He later continued his education at both Ball State University and Liberty University.

Reverend Keller was a dear friend of mine, and I mourn the loss of this great public servant. His record of achievement in his community and around the country is extensive and includes serving as Executive Chairman for World Wide Pictures, attending Billy Graham's School of Evangelism, and participating in the Conference on Evangelism in Amsterdam among others. Reverend Keller was also a member of the planning committee for the Leighton Ford and the Lowell Lundstrom Crusades in Muncie, and he organized several open air festivals.

In 1953 he founded the William C. Keller Construction Co. that built churches, office buildings, service stations and residential housing, and Reverend Keller also developed the Keller West Addition in Muncie.

Beginning in 1969, Reverend Keller served as President of the Delaware County Evangelistic Association. Among his many involvements, he was also a member of the Board of Social Concern for the National Association of Evangelicals; past Governor and Lt. Governor of Division H, District 11 of Toastmasters International; past chairman of the steering committee of National Issues Forum; and he served several years as a volunteer Probation Officer and court appointed Special Advocate for children.

I offer my most sincere condolences to his bride of 73 years, Irene; their six children: Martha Lovern, Harold Keller, Dave Keller, Paul Keller, Don Keller, and Bill Keller, Jr.; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-two great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and his siblings Charles, James, and Reba. While the loss of Reverend Keller's selfless work in the community will be deeply felt, heaven is richer with his passing.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND
JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3630, the GOP Tax Extenders Package. This bill does nothing to create jobs, support the middle class or stimulate our economy. Instead, the Republicans have decided to play politics at the expense of ninety-nine percent of American families.

As we wrap up this year's legislative business, individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits, physicians anxiously awaiting certainty that they will be adequately reimbursed for treatment they deliver to Medicare patients and millions of middle class families facing a tax increase are depending on us to put politics aside and act responsibly. Unfortunately, the GOP Tax Extenders Package is mere political theater that takes an irresponsible approach to solving these issues.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama called on Congress to extend the payroll tax deduction in order to save working Americans an average of \$1,500 over the next year. If Congress does not act by the end of the year, American families making an average of \$50,000 per year will see their taxes raised \$1,000. At a time when the average American is struggling to make ends meet, it is essential that we extend the payroll tax cut to ensure that middle class American families can spend the money they've earned. Lowering the rate Americans contribute to Social Security out of their paychecks will help stimulate consumer spending, create jobs and revive our economy.

While the Republican bill we are considering today extends the current payroll tax cut by two percent and addresses the SGR "doc fix" for two years, there are a number of ideological poison pills attached to this bill that simply make this measure unacceptable. First, the bill cuts Medicare provider rates by over \$21 billion and significantly increases the number of Medicare beneficiaries required to pay higher premiums for services they need.

Second, the bill would cut over \$21 billion from Affordable Care Act programs, which will increase the ranks of the uninsured by 170,000 Americans. Although we are making progress in ensuring that more Americans have access to quality and affordable health insurance plans, the Republicans are recklessly attempting to roll back provisions of the Affordable Care Act that have proven successful at increasing access to healthcare. The Prevention and Public Health Trust Fund, an essential piece of the Affordable Care Act tasked with promoting healthy lifestyles and prevention treatment to keep Americans healthy, would suffer a deleterious \$8 billion cut.

Further, this bill would roll back the amount of time benefits are provided to recipients of emergency unemployment compensation. The current program allows beneficiaries to receive unemployment compensation for up to 99 weeks; however, the Republican Tax Extenders Package would lower that amount of time to 59 weeks. As we are all aware, the current job market is extraordinarily bleak. With the unemployment level in my district hovering around twenty percent, shortening the length of time benefits are provided would have a devastating impact on those who rely on unemployment compensation as their main source of income.

Mr. Speaker, cutting back emergency unemployment compensation from 99 to 59 weeks hurts the most vulnerable members of our society. That is why I submitted an amendment to this legislation that would extend current unemployment benefits for 2012, if the implementation of subtitle B of title II is found to have a disproportionately adverse effect on workers aged 55 and older by the Secretary of Labor. Had my amendment been made in order and adopted, it would have provided

much needed relief to job-seeking seniors in this tough economic environment.

Time is running out. Republican brinkmanship on must-pass legislation continues to damage job creation and create uncertainty for businesses and the markets. In their Pledge to America, House Republicans promised to focus on jobs and keep extraneous and controversial provisions out of must-pass legislation. This bill is yet another example of their broken promises to the American people.

For all these reasons I cannot support H.R. 3630, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ADKINS BROTHERS
FOR ONE HUNDRED FOUR
YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, in southern West Virginia, "family" has a very special and sacred meaning. Its definition goes far beyond the traditional; more than a group of individuals related by blood or marriage. It is an ideal that transcends all West Virginians; an institution protected, trusted and revered by all. It is the core thread woven into and throughout the fabric of the values we treasure most.

Today, I rise to honor a family of West Virginians from the Logan County community of Pine Creek, in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. They are nine brothers, nine of the eleven sons of the late Olive and Oscar Adkins, who collectively served in our Nation's military for more than 100 years. This is truly a "band of brothers" for which our Nation owes a debt of gratitude.

Shakespeare outlined the honor and drew distinction for the Band of Brothers in the famous St. Crispin's Day speech, a motivational speech delivered to troops about to enter battle in Act IV of the play, Henry V:

Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot, but he'll remember with advantages what feats he did that day. Then shall our names, familiar . . . as household words . . . be in their flowing cups freshly remembered.

This story shall the good man teach his son . . . from this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remembered—we few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me; shall be my brother . . .

Fate was kind to the nine Adkins brothers. None were seriously injured, and all returned home safely, although many who served with them were not so lucky. All the Adkins brothers were honorably discharged, and all were proud to serve their country. The pride in this remarkable record of military service is shared by their parents, two other brothers, Hobart and Robert, and four sisters, Madeline, Ruth, Lyndell, and Iris.

The nine who served include Harvey, who was in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1943 to 1946; Jason, who was in the U.S. Army at the end of World War II in 1945 and 1946, then again from 1952 to 1955 during the Korean Conflict; Leon, who served in the Air Force from 1948 to 1952 in the Korean Conflict; Billy, who served in both the Army and Air Force from 1948 to 1954; Lowell, who

served in the U.S. Air Force from 1954 to 1974 in both Thailand and Vietnam; Franklin, who served in both U.S. Air Force and Army from 1956 to 1976; Vernon, who joined the Army and served from 1958 to 1979; Linden, who served in the Army from 1965 to 1967; and Clifton, who served in the Army from 1959 to 1981.

Selfless service and sacrifice are the twin pillars supporting our Republic. Surely, these values, so important to the future vigor of our democratic principles, were instilled in the Adkins Brothers by devoted and dedicated parents. Such a record of service is not happenstance or coincidence; rather, it is a record built with an abiding faith in the Almighty's continued blessings on this land of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, in sum, the Adkins brothers share 104 years of U.S. military service, a milestone record of service, that I hope the U.S. Department of Defense will soon formally recognize. I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging my fellow West Virginians as true American patriots and to thank them for their distinguished service to our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 932, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CELEBRATING THE 84TH BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, December 5 marked the 84th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. I would like to take this opportunity to send warm wishes to him and to the people of Thailand as they commemorate his 65-year reign as King of Thailand.

The world's longest-serving monarch, His Majesty King Bhumibol ascended to the throne on June 9, 1946. Throughout his reign, King Bhumibol has both witnessed and been instrumental in the transformation of Thailand into a prosperous, modern state, with a strong agricultural sector and modernized manufacturing and services industries. His contribution to such progress and the devotion and compassion he has for the Thai people has earned King Bhumibol the love and respect of his people as well as worldwide recognition for his leadership.

As a leading advocate for sustainable, human-centered development, King Bhumibol has worked hard to address the critical development issues facing his country and his people, applying scientific knowledge and initiating development projects that take into account the topography, traditions and culture of a region. Focusing on agricultural development, King Bhumibol has overseen thousands of de-

velopment projects undertaken to improve the food security and welfare of the Thai people. His concern about the sustainability of Thailand's natural resources has spurred several water resource and reforestation projects throughout the country.

I would also like to celebrate the 178-year diplomatic alliance and friendship between Thailand and the United States—one that reflects both common interests and shared values, namely: democracy, good governance, and the rule of law. Indeed, on March 20, 1833, the United States and Thailand (then known as Siam) signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, making the Kingdom of Thailand the first treaty ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. His Majesty King Bhumibol's state visit to the United States in 1960 further cemented the excellent relations between our two nations.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest sympathies to the people of Thailand for the recent historic floods in Thailand, and reiterate my support for both ongoing and additional humanitarian efforts aimed at providing civilian and military assistance to save lives, restore health, and facilitate Thailand's economic recovery. The United States remains committed to supporting Thailand's long-term recovery. The United States government has contributed significant humanitarian assistance, United States citizens and private sector have donated to reconstruction efforts, and the United States will continue working to help improve Thailand's capacity to prepare and respond to such disasters in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join our long-standing friends, the people of Thailand, as they celebrate the 84th birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and his esteemed 65-year reign of and dedication to Thailand.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN FRANKLIN THAMES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to a constituent who has dedicated his professional career to coaching high school basketball and—over the past half century—has developed generations of successful young women while breaking and setting winning records for women's basketball in South Carolina. I commend Coach John Franklin Thames for his 50 years of coaching women's basketball in the Palmetto State. It is very fitting that a scholarship for gifted athletes will be established in his honor at his alma mater, Manning High School.

John Thames grew up in Alcolu, SC and graduated from Manning High School in 1953. At that time, America was at war with Korea. He spent six months as Executive Officer of Training Company at Fort Jackson, and served 13 months in Korea as an Army Tank Platoon Commander. Following his military service, he matriculated at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, graduated in 1958, and returned home to serve his alma mater for the next half century.

Over his 44-year career as the Lady Monarchs head coach, Coach Thames' teams

amassed two State Championships, three State runner-ups, 15 Regional Championships, and seven Regional Tournament Championships. He was named Region Coach of the Year 14 times and the Sumter Item Area Coach of the year three times. In 1969, he was selected as the Pee Dee North-South All-Star South head coach. He served as head coach in the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association North-South Girls All-Star Game in 1984 and 2000. He was also one of two South Carolina coaches chosen to coach the South Carolina All-Star Girls against the North Carolina All-Star Girls at Winthrop University.

Coach Thames was nominated in 1991–92 as the Converse High School Coach of the Year and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year in women's basketball. That same year, he was named Florence Morning News Class AAA Girls Coach of the Year. He has been a South Carolina Coaches Association of Women Sports MVP Honoree, and a 2000 High School Sports Report State Coach of the Year in AAA Girls Basketball. He was a 2009 Inaugural Inductee into the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, and a 2011 Inaugural Inductee into the Clarendon County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coach Thames has also had great success in other sports. He served as the Manning High School baseball coach for 14 years and as an assistant football coach for 36 years.

In 1993, his high school alma mater—and 50-year employer—named its gymnasium in his honor for "his lifetime of contributions to Manning High School." Presbyterian College also honored their esteemed graduate by recognizing Coach Thames as the 2011 recipient of the Bob Waters Award. This honor was given for his outstanding leadership and service to society and the profession of athletic coaching and for personifying those values and qualities of excellence and integrity held dear by his college alma mater.

Despite all the accolades he has accrued over his career, Coach Thames will be remembered most for his generosity and love of his players and all students. Since 2004, Coach Thames has conducted a free one-week basketball camp for girls. He is committed to ensuring that the inability to pay is not an obstacle for any girl to participate in the sport. For years, Coach Thames has used his personal funds to buy shoes for all of his players. He has done so because he doesn't want to single out the ones who cannot afford new shoes. He provides transportation and other clothing for many of his students who have limited resources. Coach Thames is also dedicated to helping students get into higher education institutions so they can pursue their dreams. "Coach," as he's lovingly known to everyone including non-athletes, is a mentor and father figure.

In addition to his coaching accolades, Coach Thames has twice been named the Manning High School Teacher of the Year. He received the 2008 Outstanding South Carolina Teacher of U.S. History by the Daughters of the American Revolution. He was inducted into the Kappa Alpha Order Court of Honor in 2009. Coach Thames is a recipient of the Silver Crescent, the highest civilian recognition awarded by the State of South Carolina for outstanding dedication to a local community, and has been inducted into the Clarendon County Education Hall of Fame. Coach