

the 16th Amendment, thus paving the way for real change in the way government collects and spends the people's hard-earned money. The Liberty Amendment also explicitly forbids the Federal Government from performing any action not explicitly authorized by the U.S. Constitution.

The 16th Amendment gives the Federal Government a direct claim on the lives of American citizens by enabling Congress to levy a direct income tax on individuals. Until the passage of the 16th Amendment, the Supreme Court had consistently held that Congress had no power to impose an income tax.

Income taxes are responsible for the transformation of the Federal Government from one of limited powers into a vast leviathan whose tentacles reach into almost every aspect of American life. Thanks to the income tax, today the Federal Government routinely invades our privacy, and penalizes our every endeavor.

The Founding Fathers realized that "the power to tax is the power to destroy," which is why they did not give the Federal Government the power to impose an income tax. Needless to say, the Founders would be horrified to know that Americans today give more than a third of their income to the Federal Government.

Income taxes not only diminish liberty, they retard economic growth by discouraging work and production. Our current tax system also forces Americans to waste valuable time and money on complacency with an ever-more complex tax code. The increased interest in flat-tax and national sales tax proposals, as well as the increasing number of small businesses that questioning the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) "withholding" system provides further proof that America is tired of the labyrinthine tax code. Americans are also increasingly fed up with an IRS that continues to ride roughshod over their civil liberties, despite recent "pro-taxpayer" reforms.

Mr. Speaker, America survived and prospered for 140 years without an income tax, and with a Federal Government that generally adhered to strictly constitutional functions, operating with modest excise revenues. The income tax opened the door to the era (and errors) of Big Government. I hope my colleagues will help close that door by cosponsoring the Liberty Amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP VISA ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a new version of the StartUp Visa Act, a bill that would encourage innovation and economic growth by permitting immigrant entrepreneurs greater access to temporary U.S. visas. The bill matches legislation introduced this week by Senators JOHN KERRY, RICHARD LUGAR, and MARK UDALL in the Senate.

What do American household names such as Google, eBay and Proctor & Gamble have in common? They are all former start-ups founded by immigrants.

Our current visa laws have made it unnecessarily difficult for immigrants to launch new

companies in the United States. I am reintroducing the StartUp Visa Act because the economic dynamism of foreign-born talent has always been a crucial factor in our country's growth, and we must take steps to enable it to continue. By allowing immigrant entrepreneurs greater access to American visas, we truly can drive American job creation and channel the power of innovation.

This legislation would be an expansion of the bill from last Congress, extending the pool of eligible immigrants to include holders of H-1B visas and entrepreneurs living outside the United States with a market presence in the country.

The entrepreneurial spirit is ingrained in our country's history and success. I believe that this legislation is a vital component of promoting our global competitiveness. We must ensure a strong foundation for foreign-born, highly-skilled talent to create American jobs and promote economic prosperity and this bill works toward that end.

PATRICK RATNECHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Patrick Ratnecht for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Patrick Ratnecht is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Patrick Ratnecht is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Patrick Ratnecht for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES, OUR NATION'S OLDEST SURVIVING WORLD WAR I VETERAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Frank Woodruff Buckles, a fellow West Virginian and our Nation's oldest surviving World War I veteran, who was buried today at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

When asked to explain his long life, Frank Buckles answered, "Hope." All of America's veterans hope that their service will not have been in vain. They hope that their service leads to a better future for our Nation and the world. And they hope that the freedoms secured through their sacrifices will live long past their days with us on this Earth.

We honor our veterans and their dedication to duty and selfless sacrifice. Nourishing the memory of their contributions feeds our own generation of hope.

Today, our Nation honors the mortal remains of Frank Buckles and memorializes a generation of Americans, whose common purpose, whose lasting hope, was so nobly advanced by their last comrade.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ROBERT CALPIN

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Robert Calpin, this year's recipient of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Calpin was born in Minooka, PA. He graduated from Scranton Central High School and the University of Scranton. Robert has held positions at GEICO Insurance Company, RCA Picture Tubes, Karibe, Inc. He is currently employed at the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare in Wilkes-Barre, PA in the Nursing Home Division. Robert now resides in Pittston with his wife. They have three children and one grandchild.

A member, past President, and current Membership Chairman of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Mr. Calpin currently serves as an officer of President John F. Kennedy Council #372 Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree. Robert is also a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Wolf Tone Division, the Minooka Notre Dame Club, the Scranton Area Organized Runners, and the PIAA.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Calpin has been an active member of our community. He continues to go above and beyond to serve our area. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Robert Calpin on receiving this year's Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Lifetime Achievement Award.

PROVIDE SAN DIEGO WITH WATER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 917, the South San Diego County Water Reclamation Project of 2011, to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation's participation in Phase I of the South San Diego County Water Reclamation Project.

Southern California must reduce dependence on water that is imported from outside the region. The South San Diego County Water Reclamation Project is a comprehensive and coordinated approach by public water agencies to address this need by sustainably using groundwater resources through desalination of brackish water, and recycling of wastewater for non-potable uses.

When fully implemented, the Project will reduce dependence on imported water by approximately 18,600 acre-feet (or 4 billion gallons) per year, enough to provide service to about 37,000 households. This will minimize

supply and environmental impacts to the region's imported water sources, the Colorado River, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. This water supply would also mitigate the potential impacts of planned or emergency water supply interruptions.

The Project includes the following components:

A Regional Concentrate Conveyance Facility would serve existing and future desalting and water reclamation facilities. The proposed Conveyance Facility will facilitate continued and expanded operation of the existing Reynolds Desalination Facility and potentially other facilities that may be developed in the region.

An additional groundwater desalination facility in the Otay River Valley.

A Recycled Water Membrane Bioreactor Facility to treat wastewater and produce recycled water that will be constructed as part of Phase II of the project.

The South San Diego County Water Reclamation Project will highly leverage scarce Federal resources. The maximum Federal share would be 25 percent, so each Federal dollar authorized would be matched by a minimum of three nonfederal dollars. In addition, no Federal funding would be used for the operation or maintenance of these facilities.

PETRA REAGAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Petra Reagan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Petra Reagan is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Petra Reagan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Petra Reagan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING LINDA ELLIOT

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Linda Elliot, a loyal and committed LGBT rights advocate, who will receive the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Arizona Individual Equality Award on March 19, 2011. She is truly deserving of this unique honor, and we recognize her many contributions in addressing issues affecting Arizona's LGBT community.

Ms. Elliot's commitment to HRC is commendable, and will soon be marked by 20 years of service to this organization. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Elliot has served in a variety of diverse roles, including her most recent position as the National Co-Chair for the HRC Board of Director's Public Policy Committee. In this capacity, Ms. Elliot and her fellow committee members have helped achieve a series of accomplishments for the LGBT movement, including hate crimes legislation, the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and other gains related to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and gender rights.

Ms. Elliot should also be congratulated for her efforts as a founding member of two HRC chapters in Phoenix and Denver, and for her dedicated membership on a host of community boards and steering committees, including Arizona's Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS, the One-Voice Community Center, the "No On Prop 107" steering committee, and the Colorado AIDS Project.

Ms. Elliot has maintained a constant presence in the community she serves, encouraging and inspiring the involvement and participation of numerous other LGBT activists in Arizona.

Personally, I also want to thank Linda for her continued friendship and support, which she has generously offered to me throughout the years.

In considering all of these achievements, I ask that you join me in recognizing Linda Elliot for her tireless advocacy efforts and offer her sincere congratulations upon acceptance of her laudable award.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BROWN-ALLEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Barbara Brown-Allen.

Barbara has a feisty attitude and no-nonsense approach to life's obstacles; she believes there is nothing that cannot be achieved if one formulates a plan and acts on it. This ambition led to a life of exciting opportunity for this proud, Jamaican-born, businesswoman.

One of Barbara's greatest opportunities came from Crown Heights North in Brooklyn, New York. In 2000, she and her husband, Michael, lived in East Flatbush. They drove through Crown Heights North one day and noticed a neighborhood filled with potential. Barbara immediately invested in property there and spent the next few years developing it. Despite several construction obstacles, she accomplished her goal: a beautifully renovated five story townhouse to call home.

While developing her property in Crown Heights North, Barbara found herself in two new careers: community activism and real estate. She was originally a secretary for a federal bankruptcy judge, but wanted new challenges. Barbara took real estate classes and began bringing buyers and renters to Crown Heights North. To raise the reputation of the neighborhood, Barbara began lobbying local politicians for change. For example, she encouraged Borough President Marty Markowitz to offer homeowners tree guards to protect the

neighborhood trees, a successful program that remains in place today.

As her political strength grew, Barbara remained dedicated to improving the quality of life in Crown Heights North. She joined local organizations that advocated for land-marking, increased city services, and business improvement. To better the quality of life for all of Crown Heights' residents, she also worked with several organizations: Crown Heights North Association, CHARM, Nostrand Park and the Crow Hill Association. With a storefront on Franklin Avenue, Barbara's dedication to the community was exemplified by her actions as a landlord: she would only rent to the "right" tenant, one who would help revitalize the Crow Hill section of Crown Heights.

Barbara excelled in the real estate business and is now an agent for Prudential Douglas Elliman. She was voted Rookie of the Year in 2008, and received two awards in 2009: the Top Two Sales Agent in New York City for Individual Transactions and the 2009 President's Circle Award. In spite of the recent down market, Barbara sees a bright future for her business and her neighborhood. "I think long term," she says. "I just look around, and I know." The vision and continued success of Barbara will be no surprise to anyone who has encountered this determined force of nature.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Barbara Brown-Allen.

INTRODUCING THE TAXPAYER'S FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Taxpayers' Freedom of Conscience Act, which forbids federal funds from being used for population control or "family planning." President Obama's executive order allowing those who perform and/or promote abortion overseas to receive taxpayer money, as well as the health care law's failure to prevent taxpayer money from being used for abortions, bring new urgency to the need to protect pro-life Americans from being forced to subsidize abortion.

It is not enough to say that "family planning" groups may not use federal funds to perform or promote abortion. After all, since money is fungible, federal funding of any activities of these organizations forces taxpayers to underwrite the organizations' abortion activities. Thus, the Taxpayers' Freedom of Conscience Act is the only way to protect taxpayers from having to support what they "disbelieve and abhor."

Thomas Jefferson eloquently made the case for Taxpayer's Freedom of Conscience Act when he said that: "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

I hope all my colleagues will join me in helping end the "sinful and tyrannical" policy of forcing pro-life Americans to subsidize, either directly or indirectly, abortion by cosponsoring the Taxpayer Freedom of Conscience Act.