

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE TAX
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, once again the House finds itself considering a bill that unfairly targets the hard working public servants who every day are providing a wide array of public services from helping to nurse our wounded veterans, to discovering cures and treatments for diseases that plague millions of American families, to ensuring aviation safety, to protecting our borders, public safety and the food supply. Over the last two years, our Republican colleagues have repeatedly brought legislation to the floor to slash the pay and benefits of civil servants in order to protect special tax breaks for the super wealthy and special interests.

Obviously, all Americans should pay their taxes, and those who fail to do so should be penalized. But federal employees should not be denied the full complement of due process rights that are available to any other American. This bill would result in the firing of federal employees who may be legitimately contesting a tax liability through the established process. Moreover, by linking the firing of a federal employee to a lien, this bill would result in the firing of individuals who are already in the process of satisfying their tax obligation. There are already laws and regulations on the books that address how tax debt should be handled and how federal employees who are delinquent on their payments should be disciplined.

In 2002, the IRS asked Congress to change the standard for determining when an agency was mandated to fire employees. Rather than firing every employee who fails to properly file their tax return, IRS created a hierarchy of penalties based on the seriousness and willfulness of the offense. This bill throws out that process and treats all delinquencies as if they were willful and deliberate.

Comparatively, federal employees have a compliance rate that is higher than the average American taxpayer. In 2010, 3.35 percent of federal employees were delinquent in their tax payments. That same year, the delinquency rate for the total universe of American taxpayers was 7.4 percent. Instead of making public servants the target of new, unnecessary and unfair legislation, we should instead be focusing on uniform ways to strengthen and better enforce existing laws and regulations governing tax delinquency.

HONORING METRO CHICAGO

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, thirty years ago, in August of 1982, a little-known band from Georgia took the stage at a new music venue at 3730 North Clark Street in Chicago.

Five hundred tickets were sold for 5 dollars each, and Chicagoans gathered in "the big room" to watch R.E.M.

The show was a huge success, and the Metro Chicago has been an influential music venue ever since.

Celebrating their 30th anniversary this month, the Metro continues to hold an important place in the Chicago music and performing arts scene.

There is a long list of memorable moments, including performances by music legends like James Brown, Bob Dylan, the Ramones, Smashing Pumpkins, and my personal favorite, Poi Dog Pondering.

The Metro has always been a venue that has provided a platform for new music talent to start their careers the old fashioned way, by sending in a demo and booking a slot.

Their dedication to independent music comes from the enthusiasm of owner Joe Shanahan, a south side Chicago native.

In the late 1970s, looking to better connect the music community of his home town, Joe started hosting parties for performing artists out of his loft apartment in the city.

It was not long until his musical gatherings outgrew his small space.

He eventually converted an old community center into a venue, and he has been bringing Chicago the best local and national talent ever since.

Shanahan, an icon in independent music promotion, stays involved in the community as well by serving on the boards of the Chicago Children's Choir and Rock for Kids, a charity that provides music education to underserved children in Chicago.

Without a doubt, the Metro and Shanahan's influence on the Chicago music scene is beyond measure.

Music before money always has been the message, and because of this commitment, the Metro has helped shape Chicago's cultural landscape.

For 30 years the Metro has contributed to the music scene in Chicago, and for 30 years fans have flocked to it.

Congratulations on three decades of rock.

We'll be lining up for thirty more years of great music to come.

RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS
ABOUT CYPRUS**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, there is a need to respond to recent comments that have been made by some of my colleagues involving issues of concern to Cyprus.

We all agree that a comprehensive and sustainable resolution of disagreements about Cyprus is long overdue. Such a solution must allow both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities to participate in all aspects of the island's national life and government while respecting the rights and political equality of all Cypriots preserved in a renewed partnership state.

Of concern to me are statements by some that Turkish Cypriots, and the Republic of Turkey itself, are obstacles to any forward progress.

Without rehashing the history that brought about the current situation on Cyprus, it should be made clear that the Turkish government has, on multiple occasions, welcomed the resolution of these issues which guarantees the equal rights of the Turkish Cypriot community. Turkish Cypriots voted overwhelmingly in favor of the U.N. Comprehensive Peace Plan (known as Annan Plan) in 2004, demonstrating their sincere desire to move beyond the painful past. Despite this genuine determination to incorporate, not only within the life of the island, but within the wider European and global communities, the U.N. proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by the Greek Cypriot side. Incredibly, one week after missing one of the most significant opportunities to reach a comprehensive solution to these longstanding problems, the Greek Cypriots were awarded with membership in the European Union.

As a result, the Greek Cypriot community, as the Republic of Cyprus, now enjoys full membership status in the European Union including all associated rights and privileges as well as membership in the wider, global community. It is time to end the isolation and embargoes imposed upon the Turkish Cypriot community and secure a negotiated political settlement, agreed to by both parties, that allows all Cypriots to build a common future together.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF DEVEREUX**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Devereux on its upcoming 100-year anniversary.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

An outstanding non-profit behavioral health organization, Devereux's year-long centennial celebration will culminate in a 100th Anniversary Gala Celebration on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on November 10, 2012. The organization was founded by Helena Trafford Devereux, a schoolteacher in the great city of Philadelphia in the dawn of the Twentieth Century. At that time, children with special needs were held back, ostracized by their peers, written off as hopeless or sent to mental institutions.

Miss Devereux had other ideas for these children. She passionately believed that each individual has his or her own innate abilities, distinctive potential and unique needs that, through individualized care grounded in positive supports, could be a contributing and valued member of their community.

With innovative teaching methods, individualized instruction and materials designed by Miss Devereux, her students began to thrive. School administration took notice of her success and began to officially refer students with special needs to her room. In 1912, Miss Devereux was offered by the Philadelphia Board of Education the position of the district's first Director of Special Education.

She turned down the offer, believing in the importance of educating the whole child through a then non-traditional curriculum that included life-skills, recreation and vocational activities. Instead she struck out on her own to establish a private school in her own home. With all of her savings and borrowed funds, which totaled \$100, she rented a home in Devon to house her growing school, which then numbered 12 students. Through perseverance and persuasion, she stewarded the growth of Devereux for decades, creating one of the Nation's largest and most well-respected nonprofit providers of behavioral healthcare.

This year, 6,000 staff has provided services to tens of thousands of children, adolescents and adults in eleven states, all abiding by Miss Devereux's legacy of the "Philosophy of Care": individualized services, positive approaches and effective and accountable service delivery. In addition, Devereux's work in building the social and emotional health of schoolchildren through public education and prevention programs has impacted millions of children and their families in every state in the union.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Devereux on 100 years of service to countless children, adolescents and adults and their families, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our Nation.

JOB PROTECTION AND RECESSION PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of extending tax cuts for middle class families and small businesses.

I support a plan that allows generous tax cuts for the wealthiest two percent to expire, while also ensuring taxes do not go up on those that can least afford it. This is the plan

that passed the Senate last week. And this is the plan that President Obama said he is ready and eager to sign should it pass the House.

Unfortunately, however, this is not the plan being offered by the Majority on the floor here today. The Majority's proposal, H.R. 8, preserves tax cuts for the wealthiest two percent at the expense of middle class families and small businesses.

It gives, on average, an extra \$160,000 tax cut to millionaires while raising taxes on 25 million middle class families by an average of \$1,000 by restricting or eliminating crucial tax credits that middle class families depend on to pay their bills and send their kids to college, like the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and American Opportunity Tax Credit.

This is not the balanced, equitable solution my constituents on the Central Coast and the American people are asking for, which is why I strongly oppose H.R. 8 and will vote against it.

I will instead be voting for the substitute amendment, which is identical to the legislation the Senate passed last week.

It extends for one year the current tax rates on income, capital gains and dividends for taxable income up to \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples. Under this plan, all taxpayers will benefit from the tax breaks on income up to these thresholds, and 98 percent of Americans and 97 percent of small businesses will see no tax increase at all.

This proposal also fixes the Alternative Minimum Tax for 2012 and extends several other important tax provisions that middle class families and small businesses depend on, including marriage penalty relief, expanded child and earned income tax credits, education tax incentives, and small business expensing.

This is a reasonable, responsible plan that should have bipartisan support.

Democrats and Republicans agree on the need to extend the tax cuts for middle class families and small businesses, and this plan does exactly that. The substitute reflects this consensus and gives middle class families certainty that their taxes will not go up next year.

We should move forward with what we already agree on instead of holding hostage those who can least afford it for the benefit of the wealthiest among us.

We simply cannot afford to continue the tax cuts for the richest two percent and leave middle class families with the bill. We have a serious deficit problem that requires a balanced solution to ensure everyone bears a fair share of the burden. Letting tax rates on the richest in our society simply return to where they were in the 1990s, when our economy was booming, is one common sense step in that process.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this balanced approach and voting yes on the substitute.

THE RECENT TRAGEDY IN THE COMMUNITY OF PENDLETON, IN- DIANA

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of sadness that I rise to mark a

tragedy in the community of Pendleton, Indiana that has taken the life of an innocent resident and a K-9 police dog and injured two police officers.

On the evening of July 26, 2012, John Neal Shull, Jr. of Pendleton, lost his life in a shooting incident. According to Pendleton Police Chief Marc Farrer, Shull was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Mr. Shull was a business owner in Pendleton and a member of the local Kiwanis Club.

He will be remembered for his sense of humor and fondness for classic cars, but those who knew him best will remember John Neal Shull, Jr. as a devoted family man and friend. I want to offer my sincere condolences to his wife Noelle, their children and to his extended family.

Also lost during this terrible tragedy was one of Anderson's finest—K-9 police dog Kilo. Kilo and his handler, 11-year veteran police officer Marty Dulworth, were assisting Pendleton police with responding to the shooting. Officer Dulworth had been partnered with Kilo since 2010. The two have been responsible for several successful drug arrests and earned a number of awards during the K-9 Olympics. During the course of the incident, Officer Dulworth was wounded after suffering gunshots to his legs. Pendleton Police Sergeant Shane Issacs was also wounded while responding to the incident after being grazed by an assailant's bullet.

Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that we owe a debt of gratitude to those first responders who, like in Pendleton, rushed to the scene and put themselves in harm's way to ensure our protection. To choose the life of a police officer is to choose to make certain sacrifices for the good of the public. These men and women do so on each traffic stop, each knock on a door and each time they stand watch over a public event. For that, Mr. Speaker, we will be eternally grateful.

Let us keep the family of John Neal Shull, Jr. in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We also pray for the full recovery of Officer Marty Dulworth and Sergeant Shane Issacs. Finally, as a dog owner, I feel for the loss suffered by Officer Dulworth and the Anderson Police Department, and on behalf of the Sixth District of Indiana, I want to express condolences and gratitude for the service of Kilo, the police dog.

KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Kansas State Firefighters Association as they celebrate their 125th anniversary this year. This organization was founded in the wonderful Kansas community of Minneapolis on August 13, 1887, and it continues to thrive over a century later.

This group came together to accomplish a very important mission, to assist local fire departments in establishing and maintaining safety, professionalism and preparedness. With that mission in mind, the Association has worked tirelessly to assist local departments any way they can to make sure they are ready