

I extend my deepest congratulations to Edite Maloku 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.

**PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH
SUFFOCATED BY HIGH TAXES**

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I highlight an example of how private sector businesses grow and contribute to our society when they're not suffocated by unnecessarily high taxes, and to dispel a myth that our colleagues continue to perpetuate about energy taxes. On April 24, The Wall Street Journal ran an article calling Apple Inc. "the most valuable company" in the world.

Am I happy about that? Am I happy about Apple's success? You bet I am, and so are most people in the United States.

Later that week, on April 28, The New York Times wrote a similar article that reported on Apple's creative, but legal, tax strategy that saves them billions in tax payments each year. The Times article reported "the company paid cash taxes of \$3.3 billion around the world on its reported profits of \$34.2 billion last year, a tax rate of 9.8 percent." Comparatively, Wal-Mart paid a tax rate of 24 percent.

When Apple was asked for comments on their exceptionally low tax rate, they responded: "By focusing on innovation, we've created entirely new products and industries, and more than 500,000 jobs for U.S. workers—from the people who create components for our products to the people who deliver them to our customers."

They also mentioned: "In the first half of fiscal year 2012, our U.S. operations have generated almost \$5 billion."

Mr. Speaker, Apple's experiences are instructive to us.

First, the Federal Tax Code is too complicated. It allows only the largest companies who can afford to hire tax code interpreters to benefit from lower taxes. We should simplify the tax code by closing the loopholes and lower rates across the board to boost American competitiveness for all companies, large and small.

Both history and Apple's experience underscore how increasing taxes without accompanying comprehensive reform has never and will never represent a sustainable, long-term strategy to any budgetary problems. On the contrary, cutting taxes does create economic growth, which fuels Federal revenue windfalls for reducing the deficit.

These lessons should be applied to the entire tax code. Instead of increasing taxes on American energy producers, we should focus on simplifying the federal code to encourage the development of domestic energy resources which, in turn, bolsters employment opportunities here at home.

Again, am I pleased about Apple's success? Absolutely.

But we never hear from our Democrat friends about the low tax rates paid by companies like Apple. However, they attack domestic

energy producers and ignore the simple truth that it is the American people who actually own these companies and benefit from the respective profits that they make. According to the American Petroleum Institute, mutual funds hold almost 30 percent of oil stocks; pension funds hold 27 percent; individual investors hold 23 percent; 14 percent is held in individual retirement accounts; other institutional investments hold 5 percent; and corporate management holds just 1.5 percent.

Despite what liberal Democrats would have you believe, increasing domestic energy production not only helps lower prices and produce jobs; it also helps boost stocks, mutual funds, IRAs, and pension funds owned by millions of Americans.

It is also worth recognizing how hypocritical it is for liberal Democrats to complain about the federal tax treatment of domestic energy production while ignoring the market distorting impact of their favored subsidization of failed wind, solar and "green car" projects. The simple truth is that American energy producers, such as those in the oil development business, receive the same tax treatment as other U.S. industries. For those truly interested in "fairness," the difference between "subsidies" and "deductions" should not be ignored or distorted.

It's time that we as government officials get out of the way. Instead of increasing the bureaucracy and red tape, we need to focus on creating an environment for American private sector businesses to compete more easily in the global marketplace and give back to local communities in the form of jobs rather than sending more money to the Federal Government.

**HONORING THE LATE MRS.
CRYSTIANA SMITH RANDLE FOR
HER COMMITMENT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, the late, Crystiana Smith Randle. Mrs. Randle was born August 26, 1924 in Gulfport, Mississippi to John and Annie Bell Smith.

She was a graduate of Thirty-Third High School in Gulfport, Mississippi. Later she attended Tougaloo College, in Tougaloo, Mississippi, receiving a Bachelors of Arts in English and Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, with a Masters in Library Science.

After completing her college education, she worked at Mileston High School and Harmony High School before her tenure at McNair High School and Humphreys County High School as the school's librarian.

She worked delightfully and diligently for thirty-four years teaching and illuminating the lives of thousands of boys and girls until her retirement in 1986.

She was active in many professional organizations and served as a member of the Humphreys County Library Board. She dedicated her years as her family's personal Genealogist.

She was married to Thomas C. Randle and was the mother of two daughters, Santa and

Regina. Mrs. Randle passed away on April 20, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Crystiana Smith Randle for her dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday on rollcall 214, I inadvertently voted "no." I should be recorded as voting "aye."

ELIZABETH BLUE-NORTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

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

The dedication demonstrated by Elizabeth Blue-Norton 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 Elizabeth Blue-Norton 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.

**HONORING COLONEL MARY G.
LOCKHART ON THE OCCASION OF
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Mary G. Lockhart on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Air Force. I have a great appreciation for Colonel Lockhart's professional and distinguished career, and her dedicated service to our great Nation. Although it is difficult to encapsulate her Air Force career of 30 years in just a few brief remarks, I would like to highlight her contributions to the Air Force and our country by offering the following tribute.

In some aspects, Colonel Lockhart's career may appear to be similar to those of the many thousands of senior officers who have served in the Air Force since its creation in 1947. However, upon closer examination, it becomes clear that Colonel Lockhart has performed highly sensitive roles in critical Air Force missions with a level of skill that few other officers

can match. Equally important, she has served as a mentor to numerous young officers throughout her career, inculcating them with the Air Force's core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence.

Colonel Lockhart received her commission in 1982 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at the College of Holy Cross. As a freshly minted 2nd Lieutenant, she attended meteorology school for a year, where she began to build the skills necessary for a successful career in the Air Weather Service. Shortly after arriving to her first duty station at Griffiss AFB, NY she was recognized for her initiative, intellect, and quick grasp of the operational requirements. She was given responsibilities generally reserved for more senior weather officers in SAC and NORAD, and continued to establish herself as an exceptional meteorologist. As a 1st Lieutenant, she was credited with improving the overall readiness of her squadron and wing, and protecting valuable resources with her accurate forecasts and astute weather warnings. She was routinely tasked to handle the most delicate and time sensitive weather briefings to missile warning and space surveillance centers. In 1986, Colonel Lockhart transferred from active duty to the Air Force Reserve as a Captain, and continued to serve in the weather field as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) at Peterson AFB, CO. Her active duty experience would prove invaluable as a new Reservist who would go on to provide years of support to the Air Force's active, guard, and reserve components in a variety of positions and assignments.

As an IMA weather officer, she helped develop combat plans to support strategic, conventional, and special operations, to include leading weather forces for a deployment of KC-135 aircraft during Operation DESERT STORM. As a Major assigned to Eglin AFB, FL, she was handpicked to provide specialized on-site support to two high-visibility Space Shuttle landings at Edwards AFB, CA. While serving as an IMA Weather Officer at McConnell AFB, KS, she provided operational forecast, weather advisories, watches and warnings to a major refueling wing, and the Kansas and Oklahoma Air National Guard. Colonel Lockhart became an expert and innovator in the electro-optics arena, provided exceptional weather support during Hurricane Opal, and prepared critical climatology packages for the wing's F-16 deployments around the world. While assigned to an operations support squadron at Nellis AFB, NV, Col Lockhart commanded a weather flight that provided 24-hour weather support to the HQ Air Warfare Center and two of Air Combat Command's busiest and complex wings. Her successes and expertise led to her being selected as the first weather officer assigned to the Air Force's Weapons School. There, she helped to integrate and establish 21st century combat weather support into the warfighter's contingency operations. She was tasked to model critical targets post 9/11, maintain direct contact with Operation ENDURING FREEDOM deployed units and aircrew, and cited as the most operations oriented, bombs-on-target-on-time weather officer ever assigned to her wing. Colonel Lockhart was asked to bring her experience and natural diplomatic talents to Washington, D.C. to serve as the IMA to the Chief of the Air Force House Liaison Office on Capitol Hill.

Over the past four years Colonel Lockhart has carried out the delicate tasks of managing the House Liaison Office while her active duty colleagues have traveled on CODELs and deployed. She has been an important part of building strong relationships between Capitol Hill, the Pentagon, and senior Air Force leadership. Colonel Lockhart is trusted and relied upon by Members of Congress and their staffs to help facilitate legislative and programmatic matters. We have benefited greatly from her kind, professional, and capable ways.

Throughout Colonel Lockhart's career, her commanders have referred to her as, "the brightest junior officer on my staff", "brilliant", "superior and visionary leader", and "Total Force ace." Simply stated, Colonel Mary Lockhart has made lasting and important contributions to the United States Air Force. Our Nation is indebted to her and her family for their selfless years of service and unquestioned devotion to peace and security at home and abroad. Mr. Speaker, I wish Mary, her husband Paul, and daughters Jenna and Marisa, Godspeed and much happiness as she begins her retirement from the United States Air Force.

RECOGNIZING RONNIE CHIH-CHIEN LU

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with the other co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus—Representative SHELLEY BERKLEY, Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART, and Representative PHIL GINGREY—to recognize the service of Ronnie Chih-chien Lu. Mr. Lu is the outgoing Senior Officer in the Congressional Liaison Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, TECRO. Mr. Lu is returning to Taiwan for his next assignment as a diplomat. During his service as the TECRO contact for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Congressional Caucus on Taiwan, Mr. Lu has served as an invaluable resource for us.

In 2005, Mr. Lu was hand-picked to serve as a congressional liaison for TECRO. During his almost 7 year tenure in this position, Mr. Lu oversaw Congressional Delegation visits for over 30 Members of the House of Representatives and organized 12 Congressional Staff Delegation visits to Taiwan. Mr. Lu was also part of the TECRO team that worked toward the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 55, which commemorated the 30th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979. He also worked to garner support for House Concurrent Resolution 266 (H. Con. Res. 266), which called for Taiwan's active participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization. H. Con. Res. 266 passed the House of Representatives in 2010.

Mr. Lu has served in Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2000. Early in his diplomatic career, he served in both the Department of Protocol and Department of African Affairs. Mr. Lu received a Master of Arts degree from National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

Though he secured many legislative victories for Taiwan while he served in Wash-

ington, DC, he made even more long-lasting relationships. My colleagues and our staff are proud to call him a friend, and we hope to see him back in Washington, DC one day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 222, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our strong friendship and strategic alliance with the Republic of Turkey.

Turkey has continuously stood with the United States in our efforts to promote democracy and freedom throughout the world. As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, Turkey has committed troops and necessary resources to efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan through the years, and serves as a crucial transit point for supplies and personnel going to these countries. Additionally, Turkey announced last year that it would lead the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, regional command in Kabul for a third year. Turkey is also at the beginning operational stages of a NATO radar facility in its southeast region as part of a missile defense system intended to protect NATO allies from ballistic missiles.

In addition to cooperation on NATO-led efforts, Turkey plays a critical role in promoting democracy throughout the region. Over the last year, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has traveled throughout Egypt, Tunisia, and other countries affected by uprisings to encourage secular constitutions and democratic reforms that are vital to U.S. interests. Turkey has also taken a leading role in addressing the ongoing situation in Syria, opening its borders to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees and encouraging Arab countries to lead a coordinated effort to find a peaceful resolution in Syria.

Turkey continues to increase efforts to support religious minorities in its own borders as well. Last August, Turkey issued a decree for the return of hundreds of properties, including cemeteries, hospitals, and schools, to non-Muslim communities. This announcement also provides compensation to the non-Muslim community foundations for properties currently registered to third parties. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton applauded Turkey's efforts to "take serious steps to improve the climate for religious tolerance."

Turkey remains a vital ally of the United States, and I am encouraged by the steps that Turkey has taken to improve its own commitment to democracy and to promote democracy throughout the Middle East. Turkey has