

but State sales taxes are not right now but for the provision that will expire by the end of the year. This is an important issue to my constituents and a matter of fundamental fairness.

In 2009, 2.1 million taxpayers in Texas claimed almost \$4 billion in deductions. According to tax comptroller Susan Combs, extending the sales tax deduction will benefit millions of Texans who are working hard to keep our Nation's economy vibrant.

I am proud my State has been a beacon from the economic standpoint of opportunity where people have voted with their feet, and they have moved from places where they don't have jobs and don't have opportunities to Texas where they do. It is no coincidence that as a result of the most recent reapportionment, Texas got four new congressional seats. This is primarily due to people moving to where the opportunity is. It makes perfect sense.

Why would we want to do anything that would threaten the economy of Texas or any other State of the Union? We know the President will give another speech to the American people tomorrow night, and he will send his budget—as required by law—to Congress early next month. At this time, the American people will be able to see for themselves if we have a leader who possesses the audacity to bring us together to right the ship or one who will lead us down a path that has brought the economies of Europe to the brink of economic disaster and a permanent lower standard of life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask to speak as if in morning business for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ST. CROIX BRIDGE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, we are about to pass unanimously the St. Croix bill. It is something we have been working on very hard—the two Senators from Minnesota, myself, Senator FRANKEN, Senator JOHNSON, as well as Senator KOHL—to get through the Senate.

This bill allows a bridge to be built that has been waiting for 30 years. It is a bridge that exists now and is a beautiful bridge, but it is falling apart. Pieces of the bridge have fallen into the St. Croix River. It is a bridge that is expected to take 18,000 cars a day, and the Department of Transportation and the State of Minnesota believe very strongly we need a new bridge.

This legislation allows the bridge to move forward. I appreciate all of the help from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. They have helped me to work on this legislation over the last few months. Senator COBURN had some changes at the end, and we worked with every single Senator to get this done.

The bill now moves to the House where it also enjoys bipartisan support, and both Governors of both States support this bill. They will then be allowed to build the bridge they want.

There has been questions raised about whether this creates some kind of precedent under the Scenic Rivers Act. This is a very unique situation. It has taken us a year to pass. We are in a situation where any new bridge would need an exemption to the Scenic Rivers Act.

We are pleased this bill is getting passed today. I don't believe anyone believed we could have done this unanimously after 30 years of work, but tonight we are getting it done.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO ADRIENNE POWERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Adrienne Powers, who recently retired as Head Interior Designer for the Architect of the Capitol at the end of last year.

Many on Capitol Hill join my wife, Landra, and me in expressing a sincere and warm congratulations on a well-earned retirement to Adrienne. Although her stylistic genius and sensitivity to the integrity and history of the walls and floors of the Capitol will be missed, she has left an indelible mark that will not be forgotten.

In 1984, after receiving her Bachelor's degree in interior design from American University, Adrienne began her career as an interior designer with the Architect of the Capitol. Her first assignment was to style the legendary Senator Moynihan's third floor office in the Russell Senate Office Building. After impressing Senator Moynihan with her ornate style and keen eye for fine art, other Senators quickly sought her services for their offices as well. This trend continued until she recently retired, making her one of the most popular figures among Members on both sides of the aisle and Capitol.

One would struggle to find some part of the Capitol that has not been improved by Adrienne's immense talent and impeccable taste. After 27 remarkable years balancing history and purpose, she leaves behind an indebted community on Capitol Hill that will forever remember her friendship, professionalism and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE FINANCIAL GUIDANCE CENTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Financial Guidance Center, FGC, a nonprofit organization that has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing financial literacy services to all Nevadans.

This year marks 40 years of empowering Nevadans by providing quality financial and credit counseling. FGC is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, accredited by the Council of Accreditation and a member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

More than ever, their services are crucial to countless homeowners in Nevada. FGC provides access to free financial, housing, and bankruptcy counseling, debt management, downpayment assistance, and financial literacy programs that are essential to making our communities more financially sound. The Financial Guidance Center should be proud of its enduring resolve to provide families with the important tools that contribute to a healthy community.

Selected by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce as the 2010 Non-Profit of the Year, FGC has remained dedicated to helping Americans get back on their feet, reach their housing goals, and attain much needed financial sustainability in trying economic times.

I am pleased to stand today in recognition of the Financial Guidance Center and their many contributions to Nevada and Utah, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JHETT JOHNSON

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a true American Cowboy, Jhett Johnson. At the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Jhett and his teammate, Turtle Powell, took home the gold buckle in the team roping competition after 10 rounds of competition against the best of the best.

Those of us in Wyoming talk about the Code of the West. As a sixth-generation Wyoming rancher and now a world champion rodeo cowboy, Jhett Johnson personifies the code. He lives each day with courage, takes pride in his work, and rides for the brand. Jhett has demonstrated this in all aspects of his life, not just his rodeo career. When still in his twenties, Jhett survived cancer. He approached his illness, and his recovery, by living the code. He wanted to finish what he started, and he intended to do what needed to be done. He knew that there were hundreds of rodeos ahead of him, and he wasn't going to let cancer slow him down.

We can all learn from Jhett Johnson and his teammate, Turtle Powell. Team roping is not an individual sport. You must trust your partner. Team roping takes in incredible amount of practice and skill, but you must acknowledge that sometimes you catch one and sometimes you don't. Competing requires miles and miles of travel to rodeos across our great Nation, which means time away from family and loved ones.

When he is not rodeoing, Jhett enjoys training horses on the family ranch near Casper, WY. He is the devoted husband to Jenny and father to three sons, Kellan, Carson, and Cress.

Mr. President, join me in congratulating Wyoming's world champion cowboy, Jhett Johnson, on his terrific accomplishments.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the founding of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, HVO, on the island of Hawaii on January 17, 1912. Currently situated on the northwest rim of the caldera of Kilauea, one of Earth's most active—and most studied—volcanoes, HVO has collaborated with top scientists from around the world to achieve its mission: to create a detailed account of Hawaii's volcanic activity. During its 100 years of operation, HVO's pursuit of this mission has not only led to great strides in the study of volcanology, it has made living near these volcanoes safer for island residents.

Established by the late visionary geologist Thomas A. Jaggar, Jr., the observatory has been continuously monitoring Kilauea and other Hawaiian volcanoes for the past century, collecting data critical to the understanding of volcanic activity. Jaggar's work built on the pioneering contributions of the world-renowned American volcanologist, Frank A. Perret, who made his first observations on the volcanic activity at Kilauea in 1911. Jaggar used Perret's work to successfully solicit initial support and funding for the project from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Hawaii, and the Carnegie Geophysical Laboratory. Jaggar also received essential contributions from several local businessmen, who pledged significant sums to establish the observatory at Kilauea.

Over time, the sponsorship and operation of HVO has been administered through various Federal agencies, including the United States Weather Bureau from 1919 to 1924; the United States Geological Survey, USGS, from 1924 to 1935; the National Park Service, NPS, from 1935 to 1947; and the USGS again from 1947 to the present. Throughout HVO's history, it has worked with local interests to further public safety, education and outreach, and geological science. HVO has enjoyed a longtime partnership with University of Hawaii's Hilo and Manoa campuses, as well as close working relationships with NPS at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, the County of Hawaii, and Hawaii's news media.

The observations made from HVO have led to groundbreaking contributions in modern geological science through their precision and diligence in data collection, thorough analysis of the observatory's vast record, and innovation in monitoring devices and techniques. Today, HVO scientists analyze data collected from more than 100 field stations, which include seismic, deformation, volcanic-gas, geologic, and other monitoring tools. These stations transmit data to HVO around the

clock, with a single instrument sending as much as 60 terabytes of data each year. As a result, HVO-guided efforts have successfully diverted or stopped lava flows threatening Hilo and neighboring communities, mitigated the damage caused by tsunamis by providing reliable wave predictions, and have painted a rich, detailed account of the activity of some of the world's most volatile volcanoes.

Finally, I wish HVO and USGS the best of luck and continued successes as they carry on their important work. I know that they are excited to begin the next hundred years of the observatory's work, and I look forward to the advances that will result from their efforts.●

REMEMBERING JIM CAPOOT

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of James "Jim" Capoot—a dedicated husband, proud father, loving son, devoted friend and respected colleague. Officer Capoot lost his life in the line of duty while serving the Vallejo Police Department on November 17, 2011. He was 45 years old.

Jim Capoot was originally from Little Rock, AR, and served in the U.S. Marine Corps and as a California Highway Patrol Officer before joining the Vallejo Police Department in 1992. Officer Capoot was a highly decorated officer having received the Vallejo Police Department Officer of the Year award, the Medal of Merit, the Life Saving Medal, and twice awarded the Medal of Courage. In addition to his work with the Police Department, Officer Capoot was the volunteer coach of the Vallejo High School girls' basketball team and led the team to a section championship in 2010.

Officer Jim Capoot, like all those who serve in law enforcement across California, put his life on the line to protect his community. I extend my deepest condolences to his loving wife Jennifer and three daughters. My thoughts and prayers are with them. We are forever indebted to him for his courage, service and sacrifice.●

REMEMBERING OFFICER MARY ANN DONAHOU

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of a dedicated public servant, Officer Mary Ann Donahou of the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department. On the morning of December 30, 2011, while gathering evidence at a crime scene in Hughson, Officer Donahou was tragically killed after being struck by a vehicle.

Officer Donahou was born in Ceres, CA. In 2002, she began her career at the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office as a booking clerk in the county jail. As her knowledge and love of law enforcement grew, Officer Donahou eventually became a crime scene technician and dutifully served the citizens and commu-

nities of Stanislaus County with great commitment, integrity, and valor. Her devotion to helping others, along with her passion for law enforcement, enabled her to become a respected member of the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department.

Those who knew Officer Donahou will always remember her as a caring, kind, and devoted mother, colleague, and friend. She fulfilled her oath as an officer of the law with honor, bravery, and dedication. Her contributions to public safety and commitment to the citizens she served will never be forgotten and will be an example to others who hope to one day protect and serve the public.

I extend my deepest condolences to Officer Donahou's son, Jake Lewis Hassler; her parents, Janice and Robert Pence and Jack and Mary Donahou; and her sisters, Jennifer Horne, Melinda Donahou-Sneed, Lori Donahou and Teresa Brockman.

We shall always be grateful for Officer Donahou's heroic service and the sacrifices she made while serving the community and the people she loved. She will be dearly missed.●

REMEMBERING WARREN HELLMAN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Warren Hellman, a San Francisco financier, philanthropist, and community leader who died last month at age 77 from complications of leukemia.

In addition to its spectacular beauty, the City of San Francisco is known around the world for its great heart and free spirit, its celebration of diversity, and its charm. In recent years, perhaps no San Franciscan has embodied his beloved city more than Warren Hellman. He was a fantastically successful businessman and investor who liked to dress casually, ride horses, run 100-mile races, and play bluegrass banjo.

Here is how Warren was remembered by the Bay Citizen, the free newspaper he founded when he felt that local news coverage was in decline:

A rugged iconoclast whose views on life rarely failed to surprise, Hellman was a lifelong Republican who supported labor unions, an investment banker whose greatest joy was playing songs of the working class in a bluegrass band, and a billionaire who wanted to pay more taxes and preferred the company of crooners and horsemen who shared his love of music and cross-country 'ride and tie' racing.

Warren Hellman was born in New York and raised in San Francisco. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and earned an MBA at Harvard Business School. After becoming the youngest director in the history of Lehman Brothers, Warren moved home to California and co-founded the private equity firm of Hellman & Friedman. Though he made a lot of money, he much preferred giving it away. Warren said that money was "like manure: If you spread it around, good things will grow—and if you pile it up, it just smells bad."