

There is no question that our Nation is facing a challenging financial future.

Our country needs real leadership to recognize the problems that we are facing and address them directly.

For 75 years, my home State has benefited from the knowledge and expertise of the Wyoming Taxpayers Association. The Wyoming Taxpayers Association has fought for transparency, equity, balance, and stability for Wyoming taxpayers.

There is no question that the U.S. Tax Code is a mess and in need of serious reform.

As we look to address our debt crisis and reform the Tax Code, we should take a responsible, sensible approach to taxation.

The Wyoming Taxpayers Association's "Cornerstones of Taxation" provides an excellent foundation that we should consider as we debate the future of the U.S. Tax Code.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Wyoming Taxpayers Association's "Cornerstones of Taxation."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WYOMING TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION'S  
"CORNERSTONES OF TAXATION"

Justification:

Is there a justified need for the tax and is it fiscally prudent?

Are existing government funds spent efficiently before considering a new tax?

Is the primary goal of the tax to generate revenue or does it modify behavior or influence policy?

Equity:

Does the tax impose equal and uniform liabilities upon similarly situated taxpayers?

Is the tax constitutional?

Does the tax disadvantage one taxpayer over another?

Balance:

Does the tax result in diversification in taxation?

Does the tax influence decisions regarding spending, saving or investing?

Does the tax concentrate a financial burden on a few and will the tax distort economic behavior?

Stability:

Is the tax stable and predictable under changing political, economic, regulatory and environmental conditions?

Transparency:

Is the tax visible, accountable and auditable?

Is the tax easy to understand, administer and cost effective to collect?

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on Oct. 27, many of my fellow Michiganians gathered to recognize an event of enormous historical and cultural significance to our State: the 150th anniversary of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in the City of Southfield, just outside my hometown of Detroit.

For a century and a half, from its humble beginnings in Detroit to its emergence as one of the most important and influential institutions in the American Jewish community, Shaarey

Zedek has played a vital role, not just for Michigan Jews, but for the community at large. Even more important than its high profile events with high-level speakers and guests is Shaarey Zedek's 150 years of day-in, day-out service to faith, community and humanity.

Shaarey Zedek has played a vital role in Jewish cultural and political life. It is no coincidence that, as the threat of Nazi Germany rose, Shaarey Zedek hosted one of the most important meetings of American Jews in the May of 1938, warning Americans about Hitler's threat to European Jews and to international security and strongly advocating for Jewish emigration to Palestine to escape Hitler's clutches. And in later years, Shaarey Zedek was one of America's leading voices in support of oppressed Jews in the Soviet Union.

It was Shaarey Zedek where Detroit Tigers slugger Hank Greenberg attended services on Yom Kippur of 1934, in the midst of the American League pennant race, receiving a standing ovation from the congregation, serving as a powerful symbol of Jewish identity, and, as he later put it in his autobiography, pleasing his relieved parents.

Like any religious institution, Shaarey Zedek has first and foremost been a touchstone of faith. Congregation Shaarey Zedek is one of America's most respected synagogues.

Of particular importance to me is the congregation's longstanding dedication to tolerance, not just in matters of faith, but in all matters of conscience. At times of strife and conflict in Michigan and the Nation, and in the face of discrimination or oppression, Shaarey Zedek has consistently served as a voice of reason, peace, understanding and equality.

So this anniversary is important to the Jewish community, and the larger community. But it also means a lot to me personally. Congregation Shaarey Zedek is where my brother and I were bar mitzvahed. It is the spiritual home of many who are dear to me, and to the community of which I am a proud member. I know my colleagues will want to join me in congratulating all those who have made Congregation Shaarey Zedek such an important institution for 150 years, and who will carry that tradition forward in the decades to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF KEITH  
FERGUSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Benton County sheriff Keith Ferguson, who is retiring after more than four decades of dedication to safety and law enforcement.

Serving for 32 years with the Arkansas State Police, with more than half of those years as supervisor of Carroll and Benton Counties, Keith made a career out of helping the people of Arkansas.

In 2003 he became the sheriff of Benton County, a position he still holds today. In the past 10 years he has proven his commitment to keeping Arkansans safe. I have worked with Sheriff Ferguson and other community leaders during the institution of the 287(g) Program with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, commonly known as ICE. This local, State, and Federal cooperation has played a key role in combating illegal immigration in Northwest Arkansas.

Keith also helped create a child internet pornography investigation unit to help keep our children safe and has championed the use of inmate labor to help the county through programs such as Habitat for Humanity and the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank.

As sheriff of Benton County, he has improved outreach to children and the elderly and efficiency in the office with upgraded technology and improved equipment and employee training.

Keith's commitment to safety has been recognized at the State level, earning the Arkansas State Police Commendation Award for his heroics in apprehending a suspect and the Northwest Community Valor Award for his role in capturing three prison escapees.

I congratulate Sheriff Keith Ferguson for his outstanding achievements and success in law enforcement, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him on his retirement. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors. Benton County is a better place to live thanks to his years of service and leadership to Arkansas.●

RECOGNIZING THOMPSON-  
MARKWARD HALL

• Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of Thompson-Markward Hall, formerly known as the Young Women's Christian Home. Thompson-Markward Hall is located on Capitol Hill, directly across from the Senate Hart Building, and has long served as a temporary home for young women studying or working in our Nation's Capital, including many who have interned or worked in congressional offices.

Thompson-Markward Hall was founded in 1833 by Mary G. Wilkinson. Wilkinson, who was grieving the death of her daughter, recognized the need to create a safe housing option for young women moving to Washington seeking employment, and he began housing two young women in her Capitol Hill home. The need for additional space soon led to the securing of a new location at Fifth Street, NW, where the early years of the home were funded through the generosity and hard work of Wilkinson, her friends, benevolent merchants, and other community members.

In 1887, the Young Woman's Christian Home was chartered by Congress and incorporated to provide temporary housing for young women coming to

the District of Columbia. The assistance Congress provided to this home during its early years stands today as a strong example of ways Congress can show support and lend short-term assistance to help an organization get its legs. By 1906, the trustees believed the home could manage without Federal assistance, and the congressional appropriation was discontinued. Today the home remains a self-sustaining organization funded through endowments and residents.

Today, Thompson-Markward Hall also remains, true to its founding principles, a safe, comfortable, moderately-priced place for young women to live when studying or establishing careers in Washington. Retaining the spirit of Mary G. Wilkinson's founding intentions, Thompson-Markward Hall has earned a reputation as a special place for its residents, helping equip them with a strong foundation for developing lifelong friendships and fostering a deep regard for Washington, DC, and the opportunities the city offers.

As Thompson-Markward Hall celebrates another important milestone in its history, it is important that we recognize and congratulate this organization and especially the many talented individuals who have worked hard and given of their time and talents to help found this residence and now work to maintain and further its rich legacy. It is the efforts of all of these individuals, and especially Mar G. Wilkinson, Bessie J. Kibbey, Flora Markward Thompson, and past and present Board of Trustee members and staff, who have helped make Thompson-Markward Hall a wonderful housing option for thousands of young women.●

#### RECOGNIZING TEXAS CENTER FOR SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today, the Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston (TCSUH) commemorates 25 years of achievements following the discovery of the High Temperature Superconductor YBCO by Dr. Paul C. W. Chu and colleagues in 1987 and the establishment of the Center by the State of Texas.

With ongoing support from the State, the Center has continued to grow in size and in the breadth of its programs which include basic and applied research, technology development and transfer and advanced education and training. TCSUH maintains an infrastructure that supports the interdisciplinary research and education that is necessary to advance new fields and accelerate scientific discovery.

I am intensely committed to investing in science and research and Texas' place at the top of that ladder. In 2004, I worked to create TAMEST The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas a vehicle for Texas institutions to share knowledge and research, to know what others in the scientific fields were working on. Today,

with better information sharing, Texas has gone from sixth to third as a recipient of Federal research funding.

Science and technology are critical to the future growth and prosperity of our country. America must continue to prioritize scientific research and technological development that fuels our economy, creates jobs, improves health care and helps to promote our national security and global leadership.

This is incredibly important to both Texas and America. Since World War II, more than half of US economic growth can be attributed to technological innovation; part of this is a direct result of Federal investment in science and technology.

Texas' world-class research institutions and university-based innovation centers like TCSUH bring new technology and research together with savvy entrepreneurs, creating new businesses and, most important, creating jobs.

TCSUH contributes to the goals of strengthening the prominence of Texas as a national research leader by attracting top quality researchers to the State, educating the next generation of scientists and engineers, and building links with industry to commercialize new technologies and create quality jobs.

I congratulate Dr. Chu and his colleagues at TCSUH on this important occasion and extend my best wishes to all for many more years of continued success.●

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAKOTA RURAL ACTION

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Dakota Rural Action. I am proud to honor the members and stakeholders involved in Dakota Rural Action and extend my congratulations to them on this memorable occasion.

Dakota Rural Action is a local, grassroots organization that exhibits leadership through community organizing. They strive to give South Dakotans a strong voice by working with local, State, and Federal Government officials on issues and decisions involving family agriculture, conservation, and overall quality of life. The members of DRA were also early vocal advocates of my Country-of-Origin Labeling, COOL, law, which has enabled consumers to access information about where their food is coming from and enabled producers to get a better price for their products.

The Dakota Rural Action organization started in 1985 as a steering committee called the South Dakota Rural Organizing Project. The committee was tasked with finding substantive and effective ways to organize citizens on a grassroots level, largely due to the farm crisis of the late 1980s. When the need for a more sustained, long-term organization became evident, Dakota Rural Action was formally created.

The founding members wanted to create a nonprofit, nonpartisan, community-driven organization that focused on the causes and larger issues affecting rural America, rather than just the effects of the farm crisis. On January 10, 1987, Dakota Rural Action held its first meeting in Brookings, SD, to adopt bylaws and an organizational structure, set membership dues, and to establish an issue platform.

Today, Dakota Rural Action remains a vibrant, statewide network of six chapters. They celebrated their 25th anniversary at their annual meeting in Brookings, SD on November 9 and 10, 2012. It is a great privilege for me to recognize Dakota Rural Action's 25 years of service to South Dakotans, as well as their continuing commitment to the issues and causes that affect South Dakota and rural areas across the Nation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE MODRICK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Mike Modrick of Rapid City, SD. Mike, a recognized television personality in western South Dakota, is celebrating 25 years on October 26, 2012, as a meteorologist at KOTA Territory News and 30 years in weather forecasting. Mike is a graduate of Iowa State University with a bachelor of science degree in meteorology and a degree in speech. Shortly after graduating, Mike made his way to the beautiful, yet markedly unpredictable climate of western South Dakota where he has provided important safety and weather communications to the people of South Dakota for 25 years.

Mike has received the Seal of Approval for Television Weathercasting from the American Meteorological Society, which is considered the most prestigious award in weather broadcasting. His dedication to timely, reliable forecasting across western South Dakota is indicative of his passion and commitment to the safety of all South Dakotans. As Mike celebrates his silver anniversary with KOTA, it is my pleasure to thank him for his service.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. DUANE MEYER

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Dr. Duane Meyer, historian, educator, author, former university president and my friend. Fittingly, the Greene County Historical Society honored Dr. Meyer in October with its Life Time Achievement Award for his body of work enriching Missouri's educational, historical and cultural life.

Dr. Meyer, through his dedication, is recognized as one of Missouri's most distinguished historians. Dr. Meyer served as a teacher for 18 years and as an administrator for 22 years (1971-1983 as president of what is today Missouri State University). He arrived in Springfield in 1955 with a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. Dr. Meyer began his career as an assistant professor of history and later became a