

CONGRATULATING DELTA AIRLINES ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Delta Airlines on the 85th anniversary of its founding on June 17, 1929.

Delta is one of our Nation's oldest and largest commercial passenger airlines. From Delta's founder, C.E. Woolman, to its current CEO, Richard Anderson, and with thousands of loyal employees over the years, they have built one of the world's finest airlines. In a difficult and sometimes turbulent industry, Delta has survived many challenges over the past decades.

Originally established as a crop dusting operation, it was later founded in Monroe, Louisiana and has grown to a world-class passenger airline that now boasts more than 80,000 employees and serves nearly 165 million passengers annually. Traveling to more than 300 destinations worldwide and with recent mergers and acquisitions, Delta now holds a position as one of the largest domestic U.S. airlines. Over the years, as one of the first U.S. airlines to carry passengers, Delta's innovation and leadership has led to industry firsts like domestic inflight Wi-Fi and TV broadcasts.

Delta is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia and serves hundreds of U.S. cities and flies to 59 countries in six continents. In Florida, Delta serves many of our communities and provides employment for thousands of workers. Across the country, several of my family members and friends have retired and some continue to work for Delta. Travelling frequently over the years, I have met hundreds of wonderful people who work very hard to keep Delta customers flying and their company successful in business.

As the former Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee and the House Transportation Committee, it has been my honor to work with many officials and employees and it is my pleasure to congratulate each of them and the Delta Airlines Family on this occasion. I know my colleagues join me in saluting a great American business and all the fine people at Delta Airlines on this significant milestone.

A TRIBUTE TO TONY GWYNN: A MAN OF UNRIVALED SKILL AND EXEMPLARY CHARACTER

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my fellow members of the San Diego Delegation including Representative DAVIS, Representative ISSA, Representative HUNTER, and Representative VARGAS, rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Tony Gwynn, a celebrated batting champion in the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame and beloved San Diego Padre. For over 30 years, Tony's enthusiasm for baseball and life itself was a source of goodwill for our national pas-

time and for all San Diegans. He will be sorely missed by the many people he inspired to play the game and by the many lives he touched on and off the baseball diamond.

Tony Gwynn was a baseball legend. The 15-time All-Star led the Padres to two World Series appearances. In his career, he accumulated 3,141 hits over 20 seasons, earning a career batting average of .338 that is 18th best all-time. He also received a record-tying eight National League batting titles in addition to winning five Gold Glove Awards in recognition of his defensive skills. Gwynn was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2007, his first year of eligibility.

Gwynn's dedication to the sport was only matched by his love for San Diego, earning him the nickname, "Mr. Padre." While Gwynn had the option to play elsewhere, he loyally spent his entire career in San Diego. Following his time as a player in the major leagues, he remained in San Diego to dedicate the remainder of his life to coaching at his alma mater, San Diego State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the life of Tony Gwynn, an outstanding athlete and exemplary citizen, friend, and family man. His love of the game, tireless dedication, genial attitude, and uplifting presence will be missed.

MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF
CHUCK LOVELESS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of a steadfast champion for working men and women, Chuck Loveless. For decades, Chuck has stood as a guardian for working families in America—a tireless leader who has been at the center of some of the most important policy debates and struggles in the last 20 years. He leaves the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees with an enduring legacy of leadership and action, and a long record of battles fought and won for the middle class, the backbone of our democracy.

A native of Pennsylvania, Chuck earned a Master's Degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. A man of faith and principle, he has poured his heart and soul into a career of advocating for working people.

As Director of Federal Government Affairs for AFSCME, Chuck has always been a steadfast partner in our efforts to build a stronger, fairer, and more prosperous America for all people.

He and AFSCME led the fight against President Bush's proposal to privatize Social Security. He was on the front lines in the budget wars to protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security from Republican cuts. And he was an invaluable force in passing the historic Affordable Care Act that is providing newfound health security, and the personal and economic freedom that comes with it to millions of hard-working Americans.

Most recently, Chuck has devoted himself to the nationwide effort to raise the minimum

wage, and renew emergency unemployment insurance for the millions of Americans who worked hard, played by the rules, and lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

Yet perhaps most impressive is the personal commitment he has maintained throughout his positions of leadership—from his active involvement in his church to caring for those with AIDS as a volunteer at the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

As he enters the next chapter of his life, I join with many others in thanking him for the many years of energy and determination he has given AFSCME and our nation. We know that his achievements will make a difference in the lives of Americans for generations to come. Congratulations on your long and illustrious tenure at AFSCME, and good luck in all your future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO EXTEND SECTION 181 OF THE
TAX CODE

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation with my friend from New York, Congressman CROWLEY, to extend section 181 of the tax code to continue to allow for the immediate tax write-off of the first \$15 million (or \$20 million where the production is made in a distressed community) of production expenditures for qualifying domestic film and television productions. In addition, our bill would extend section 181 treatment to live theatrical productions. We are joined on this bill today by our colleagues Mr. BOUSTANY (LA), Mr. NEAL (MA), Mr. NUNES (CA), and Ms. SANCHEZ (CA).

Section 181 was first enacted in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 and has been extended several times since. It was added to protect the U.S. television and film industry and to counteract the increasingly aggressive incentives offered by many foreign governments to attract production overseas. The Directors Guild of America noted, at the time that section 181 was passed, "globalization, rising costs, foreign wage, tax and financing incentives, and technological advances, combined are causing a substantial transformation of what used to be a quintessentially American industry into an increasingly dispersed global industry."

Thus, in enacting section 181, Congress recognized the important and unique contribution our television and film production industries make to providing high-paying jobs and economic benefits in communities across the country. These productions provide good jobs not just for actors, writers and directors, but also for the local carpenters and electricians, the drivers and equipment operators, the caterers and hotel-keepers who provide services to these productions. It is estimated that a major motion picture shooting on location contributes \$225,000 every day to the local economy. For example, in 2011, the major studios alone paid over \$530 million to nearly 4,000 vendors in Georgia.

Section 181 of the Internal Revenue Code allows production companies to deduct the cost of qualified U.S. productions immediately

rather than capitalizing the costs and deducting them slowly over time. The incentive accelerates the timing of the deduction but it does not change the amount of the deduction. In order to qualify, a film must be domestically-produced, that is, at least 75 percent of the total compensation paid for the production must be for services performed in the U.S. by actors, directors, producers and other production staff personnel. The deduction applies to the first \$15 million (\$20 million for productions in low income communities or distressed area or isolated area of distress) of a qualified film or television production. The cost of the production above the dollar limitation is capitalized and recovered under the taxpayer's normal method of accounting.

I believe that section 181 remains an appropriately targeted provision, designed to encourage television and film producers to stay here in the United States and keep those jobs in our communities. For example, incentivized productions contributed over \$800 million annually to Georgia's economic output from 2007 to 2010. In 2012 alone, the entertainment industry spent more than \$870 million in Georgia, including new investments in infrastructure as several studios and other industry-related

businesses have expanded or relocated in Georgia. This bill will help to ensure that those jobs stay here in the U.S.

The bill I am introducing today also includes a new feature to extend section 181 benefits to live theatrical productions. As with films, theater not only provides cultural benefits but also provides economic benefits to local communities in the U.S. For example, according to the Broadway league, Broadway contributed \$11 billion in 2012–13 to New York City's economy on top of ticket sales and supports 86,000 jobs. And the benefits are not limited to New York. Traveling Broadway shows contributed almost \$3.4 billion to the U.S. economy, which helps sustain regional and local theatres allowing them to offer their cultural events. Live theatre audiences make numerous ancillary purchases, including restaurants, hotels, parking, taxis and souvenirs.

Unfortunately, as with film, other countries are becoming more aggressive in attracting theatrical production overseas. This is important because future income associated with a production, such as licensing fees and royalties, return to the country of the production's origin. Thus, as more original productions move overseas, the U.S. will lose tax revenue

associated with those productions. To help prevent this from occurring and to allow investors to recoup their risky investment more quickly, we believe it is important to extend section 181 to theatrical productions.

Finally, it is important to note that, while both film and television production and theatre production are inherently risky capital-intensive businesses, neither industry qualifies for bonus depreciation that covered virtually every other American industry. Section 181 acts similarly to bonus depreciation to allow investors in these uniquely American industries to recoup their investments more rapidly. This can aid the decision to green-light a project or to produce it in the U.S. This will have ripple effects across the economy by generating revenue and jobs for a range of local businesses, such as caterers, hotels, equipment rentals, etc.

This legislation works to protect these important industries and stem the flood of production to non-U.S. locations. Section 181, which expired at the end of 2013, should be extended and expanded as soon as possible in order to encourage domestic investment and keep television, film and theatrical production jobs in the United States.