

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY
SERGEANT (SGT) GREGORY
LEROY TULL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Gregory Leroy Tull who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on November 25, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Tull was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near the armored Humvee he was riding in during combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq. SGT Tull was the gunner on the Humvee. SGT Tull was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, Iowa Army National Guard, Storm Lake, Iowa. At the time of his death, SGT Tull was temporarily assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, Mississippi Army National Guard.

According to the Associated Press, SGT Tull enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard in 2002 and graduated from Pocahontas Area High School the following year. He then attended South Dakota State University before volunteering for Operation Iraqi Freedom in November 2004.

Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Gregory O. Hapgood, a National Guard spokesman, said SGT Tull was proud of his service. "He was a very bright young man and he really was a go-to guy in his unit," LTC Hapgood said. "He was a guy who didn't shirk his duty. He wanted to be where it was happening."

Jeff Tuttle, a high school friend of SGT Tull, paid tribute to him in a post on a memorial website. "I have been a personal witness to his good deeds for many years," Jeff said. "He had tremendous character and strength and I don't ever remember him getting into any sort of trouble whatsoever. I carry a picture of him in my wallet and will do so for the rest of my life, to be reminded of his bravery for inspiration. He is greatly missed, especially by his parents and brother who handled this hardship with tremendous dignity and class."

Greg Tull, SGT Tull's father, thanked more than 100 people who posted tributes to his son on a memorial website. "I want to thank everybody for their support and for having Greg as a friend," Mr. Tull said. "I never knew how many lives Greg touched. He is a very special person and his mom and I miss him every day and every minute of every day. God bless you and pray for the rest of the soldiers killed in action or wounded or still over there fighting to keep us safe. God bless America."

SGT Tull's funeral was held at Faith Lutheran Church in Pocahontas, Iowa. It was attended by hundreds of people including family, friends, and fellow soldiers. Law enforcement officers from each of the Pocahontas County law enforcement agencies stood watch outside of the church. A sign in front of the church read, "SGT Greg Tull, The Go-To Guy." SGT Tull was buried at the Indian Mound Cemetery, south of Humboldt.

SGT Tull is survived by his parents, Gary and Eileen Tull; his brother, Bryan Tull; his grandparents, Bill and Janet Velau and Erland and Phyllis Nelson.

SGT Tull was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal,

the Combat Action Badge, and the Mississippi Medal of Valor.

SGT Tull demonstrated courage and bravery while proudly serving our nation. His sacrifice will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING KYLE SUKHBIR FOR
THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyle Sukhbir of Livingston for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Sukhbir joined the United States Army in 2008 and served during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was injured during combat in June 2009 and was later awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor. After his retirement in 2012, Mr. Sukhbir's continued to serve veterans and others in his community.

Mr. Sukhbir owns a gunsmith business in Livingston. He donates customized firearms to the Montana Wounded Warriors program and to other service organizations. Mr. Sukhbir also volunteers to take veterans on hunting trips to enjoy Montana's great outdoors.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Kyle Sukhbir for his dedication and service.

GOP TAX SCAM

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is not enough to subject the GOP tax plan to the test of fiscal responsibility.

To keep faith with the nation's past, to be fair to the nation's present, and to safeguard the nation's future, the plan must also pass a "moral test."

This tax plan fails both the fiscal responsibility test and the moral responsibility test.

This tax cut package is a return to trickle-down economics.

This tax bill is a thoughtless and immoral GOP tax scam that will explode our nation's deficit and hurt poor, working, and middle class families.

It will explode the deficit by \$2.2 trillion over 10 years.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has concluded that the Senate bill would, on average, raise taxes or reduce federal expenditures for households with incomes below \$75,000 by about \$60 billion.

This tax cut bill is a repudiation of the social contract that F.D.R. announced in the New Deal.

The overwhelming portion of the bill is a lowering of the corporate tax rate, from the current 35 percent down to 20 percent.

In my home state of Texas, more than 1.7 million households earning less than \$127,000 would see a tax hike.

The proposed elimination of the personal exemption will harm millions of Texans by taking away the \$4,050 deduction for each taxpayer and claimed dependent; in 2015, roughly 9.3 million dependent exemptions were claimed in the Lone Star State.

In this tax bill, by taking away the student loan interest and educator expense deductions, more than 876,000 Texas students will lose an average credit of \$1,063, while nearly 354,000 Texas teachers who buy notebooks and erasers for their classrooms will lose an average credit of \$261.

The Republicans in Congress ASSUME that corporations will pass down savings to consumers.

But this never works. Corporations simply stash their money in tax havens.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the last time the GOP cut taxes for corporations, they spent as much as 90 percent of their windfall buying back shares, giving dividends to shareholders, stock options and executives.

This "tax bill" would lift a 1954 ban on political activism by churches, further blurring the line between church and state.

The House and Senate bills would circumscribe the ability of states and local governments to levy own taxes, which would force states to cut spending on health, care education, public transportation and social services.

The full 10-year plan for the bill reveals how bad it is: by 2027, individuals making between \$40,000 and \$50,000 would pay a combined \$5.3 Billion more in taxes, while those earning more than \$1 billion or more would get a \$5.8 billion cut.

To quote the former Chief of Staff of the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation: "[This tax bill] is not aimed at growth. It is not aimed at the middle class."

It is at every turn carefully engineered to deliver a kiss to the donor class."

According to the New York Times, in a recent survey of from the University of Chicago, only one of 38 prominent economists said the proposed tax cuts would yield substantial growth.

The proposed tax cuts would add to the long term federal debt burden.

This health bill would also alter healthcare in America.

Health Coverage would shrink in the United States, while wealthy estates would not pay at all.

The Senate version of the tax bill would cause 13 million people to lose health care and insurance premiums overall could rise by up to 10 percent.

This would result in savings of about \$53 billion, which the GOP will use to fund corporate tax cuts.

America will not be made great by financing a \$1.7 trillion tax cut for the rich by stealing \$1.8 trillion from Medicare and Medicaid, abandoning seniors and families in need, depriving students of realizing a dream to attend college without drowning in debt, or disinvesting in the working families.

This bill is opposed by colleges and universities, too.

The tax cut proposal would end the deductibility of tuition waivers for graduate students, repealing the deduction for interest paid on student loans and taxing university endowments.

According to the Brookings Institution, the endowment tax in particular, threatens the ability of low-income students to pursue college and graduate studies.

This is because endowments subsidize students from lower-income families, while allowing students across the board to graduate with less debt.

This bill is beyond sinister: the GOP tax bill is written so that in just 10 years, certain tax cuts (benefitting the wealthy) would remain permanent and paid for with other permanent measures that raise revenues or reduce program spending, while letting lower priority tax cuts (typically benefitting lower-income folks) expire.

That is why Americans reject this Republican tax giveaway by an overwhelming 2:1 margin according to a poll released yesterday by Quinnipiac.

Specifically, 61 percent think the Republican tax scam will benefit the wealthy the most; only 16 percent say the plan will reduce their taxes.

59 percent think it a very bad idea to eliminate the deduction for state and local income taxes.

Nearly half of respondents (49 percent) think it a bad idea to lower the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent.

In fact, the average annual tax cut for the top one-tenth of one percent is \$320,000; for the top one percent it is \$62,000, and for those earning \$1 million a year it is \$68,000.

Nearly 25 percent of the tax cut goes to households in just the top one-tenth of one percent, who make at least \$5 million a year (2027).

While super-wealthy corporations and individuals are reaping windfalls, millions of middle-class and working families will see their taxes go up:

13 million households face a tax increase next year.

45 million households face a tax increase in 2027.

29 million households (21 percent) earning less than \$100,000 a year see a tax increase.

On average, families earning up to \$86,000 annually would see a \$794 increase in their tax liability, a significant burden on families struggling to afford child care and balance their checkbook.

It is shocking, but not surprising, that under this Republican tax scam, the total value of tax cuts for just the top one percent is more than the entire tax cut for the lower 95 percent of earners.

Put another way, those earning more than \$912,000 a year will get more in tax cuts than 180 million households combined.

Mr. Speaker, an estimated 2.8 million Texas households deduct state and local taxes with an average deduction of \$7,823 in 2015.

But this is not the end of the bad news that will be delivered were this tax scam to become law, not by a long shot.

Equally terrible is that this Republican tax scam drastically reduces the Earned Income Tax Credit, which encourages work for 2.7 million low-income individuals in Texas, helping them make ends meet with an average credit of \$2,689.

The EITC and the Child Tax Credit lift about 1.2 million Texans, including 663,000 children, out of poverty each year.

So to achieve their goal of giving more and more to the haves and the "have mores," our

Republican friends are willing to betray seniors, children, the most vulnerable and needy, and working and middle-class families.

The \$5.4 trillion cuts in program investments that will be required to pay for this tax giveaway to wealthy corporations and individuals will fall most heavily on low-income families, students struggling to afford college, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

RECOGNIZING LOICE TROTTER FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Loice "LA" Trotter of Libby for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Trotter joined the United States Army Air Corps at the outbreak of World War II. He was captured by the Japanese during their invasion of the Philippine Islands. During his 40-month captivity, Mr. Trotter endured extreme malnutrition and abuse and witnessed many atrocities. He was repatriated in 1945, shortly before the Japanese formally surrendered.

Stateside, Mr. Trotter continued his service as a member of the VFW, a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program, and a builder helping to construct a church. At 99 years old, he remains extremely proud of his country.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending LA Trotter for his dedication and service.

TRIBUTE TO SANKALP YAMSANI

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sankalp Yamsani. Sankalp and his fellow teammates created the winning app, City Recycle Day, as part of the 2017 Congressional App Challenge. Their team is combined of students who attend Waukee High School and PrairieView Middle School in Waukee, Iowa.

The Congressional App Challenge encourages students to learn how to code through annual district-wide competitions hosted by Members of Congress from their home district. The team's app is entitled "City Recycle Day". It is designed to alert members of a community as to the date of their next trash/recycle pickup day. It also alerts users of special pickups and delays.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Sankalp and his teammates for creating the winning app, and I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sankalp and his teammates on this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I missed Thursday's votes to be back in Florida with my wife while she had surgery.

Had I been present, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call No. 642; Yea on Roll Call No. 643; Yea on Roll Call No. 644; Yea on Roll Call No. 645; Nay on Roll Call No. 646; Nay on Roll Call No. 647; Yea on Roll Call No. 648; and Yea on Roll Call No. 649.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL PFITZENMEYER OF WEST CALN TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Paul Pfitzenmeyer of West Caln Township, Pennsylvania. Mr. Pfitzenmeyer served honorably in the U.S. Army, was a dedicated employee of Acme Markets, and has committed himself to his community by serving his township's police office, as a volunteer firefighter, EMT, and as Chairman of West Caln Township's Board of Supervisors.

While in the military Mr. Pfitzenmeyer received the Good Conduct and Marksman medals. After finishing his military service in 1964, he returned home to continue serving the public.

Paul began a career with Acme Markets where he remained for 38 years. While working full-time he also spent 25 of those years working at the West Caln Township Police Office. Paul didn't stop there. He also became a volunteer firefighter and EMT then was elected to the Township's Board of Supervisors in 1991. Quickly thereafter he was elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and continues to hold the position today. But after serving with distinction for over a quarter century, Paul is stepping down.

I commend Mr. Paul E. Pfitzenmeyer for his tireless dedication to our country and his local community. His work has made him a pillar for the public to depend on. I know West Caln Township will be forever grateful for Paul's steadfast and loyal service.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD GALE FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Gale of Bozeman for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Gale served with honor during the Vietnam War as a United States Marine. His service to the nation continued following his military career.