

will have an incentive to continue to be hard working people. How? They would be liberated from the higher tax rate on each additional dollar they earn. The real beauty is the legislation gives no preference based on status, marital or otherwise. Presently, the higher 28 percent tax rate begins to apply to a single person making more than \$25,350. Our legislation would raise that threshold to \$35,000. For heads of household, the 28 percent rate starts at \$33,950. We would raise that to \$52,600. For married couples, the 28 percent rate starts at \$42,350. We would raise it to \$70,000.

According to the Tax Foundation, over 29,000,000 filers would see their taxes lowered under this proposal, with the average savings of approximately \$1,200 per filer. Over 10 million filers would move out of the 28 percent bracket to the 15 bracket. Again, this initiative represents an infinitely better approach to assisting families with their child care needs than the discriminatory Washington-knows-best approach embodied in the President's plan. A \$1,200 tax cut could pay for sixteen weeks of child care, four car payments, up to three months of housing bills, or fourteen weeks of grocery bills. That is real help for working families.

The Taxpayer Choice Act would raise the personal exemption from \$2,700 to \$3,400. Again, this simple change would reduce taxable income by \$700 and allow them the freedom to choose how best to use the benefit of their tax reduction. This legislation would deliver broad based relief to taxpayers in the lower and middle income ranges.

This change is straightforward and easy to calculate. For someone in the 15 percent tax bracket, the benefit would result in an estimated savings of \$100, or for a family of four, \$400. That reduction gives taxpayers a choice of spending on what is the approximate equivalent of five weeks of child care, a car payment, housing payment, or five weeks of grocery bills. That's real relief and those are real life choices. For someone in the 28 percent tax bracket, that's \$200 per individual, or \$800 per family of four. That return could be used for ten weeks of child care, almost ten weeks of grocery bills, three car payments of a couple of housing payments. As is true today, the deduction would phase out for wage earners whose incomes exceed \$124,500.

Let me reiterate an important point. We agree with the president that working families in America need relief. However, the President has mistakenly interpreted that need as a request for more Washington spending. We, on the other hand, know that what working families are really asking for is not more federal government, but relief from more federal government.

American families, we have heard you. We agree with you that your family should not have to sacrifice one more dime of your hard earned money to build new government bureaucracies that will further undermine your ability to care for yourself and your family. We will stand with you. The bills we have introduced today make it abundantly clear that no surplus government revenues should go to more government in Washington. Rather, they should go into your pocket. That's common sense government.

The legislation I introduced today should also fit nicely with what I believe ought to be a reality before the turn of the century, and

that is a new tax code that is simple and fair. Americans waste too much time and money filling out tax returns. It is a dream for lobbyists, lawyers, and tax preparers. It is a nightmare for the American taxpayer. Ultimately, the only way to get real reform is to kill the beast and start over. Every time Congress starts chipping around the edges like we did last summer, we make the code more complicated. We now have some 480 different forms, 6,000 pages, and 34 and one half pounds. It is time to say, "Enough already."

Reform will not be easy. There is tremendous internal resistance to changing the status quo. But it must be done. Some certified public accountants from South Dakota were in my office last week and they agreed. That profession probably is in the best position to benefit from the complexity of the code, and they agree that the current code is an abomination.

The two bills I have introduced today are consistent with a simpler, fairer approach to the tax code. At the same time, I hope these bills would begin the discussion about replacing the code with a view of taxation that invites all Americans to participate in the benefits of a growing economy that will spur investment and create jobs by limiting taxes and minimizing the burden of tax compliance.

These are our goals, and I look forward to working with this Congress to making them become a reality. To that end, I ask for your support of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1997 DELPHOS ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION VI FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding group of student-athletes from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This past fall, the Delphos St. John's High School football team completed a truly memorable season by winning the Ohio High School Athletic Association Division VI State Championship.

The 1997 Delphos St. John's High School football team demonstrated that, with a great deal of hard work, dedication to the task at hand, and with a strong sense of commitment, you can realize your dreams and make them come true.

The Delphos St. John's football team achieved more this past year than any other football team in the school's history by winning its first ever State Football Championship. The Blue Jays football team capped off a perfect 14-0 season by defeating second-ranked Norwalk St. Paul 42-28 in the Division VI state championship game.

Under the guidance of Head Coach Vic Whiting, the Blue Jays realized a life-long dream, through a great deal of hard-fought success. Their willingness to sacrifice for each other, to find the extra energy needed to produce a champion is a true testament to the unwavering loyalty that each player has for the team. The unselfish attitude of the Delphos St. John's Blue Jays is certainly a good example

of what can be accomplished when people work together for a common goal.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Coach Vic Whiting and the 1997 Division VI State Champions, the Delphos St. John's High School Blue Jays. I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to an outstanding team.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE WALTER JONES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Walter Jones of the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina. Judge Jones has been the Columbia Magistrate since 1976. It is on the occasion of his retirement that we pay tribute to his 22 years of tireless involvement in the community surrounding the Capitol city of South Carolina.

Judge Jones is a champion of community involvement. His community service includes membership on the Financial Board of Sickle Cell Anemia, the Board of Judicial Standards, the United Way Board and Board of Directors of the Boys Clubs of Greater Columbia. He is also Treasurer of a Pop Warner Football League and past President of Logan and Withers Elementary School P.T.A. Through his involvement with these various organizations, Judge Jones has emerged as a role model for the community at large. Judge Jones can be heard sharing these words of wisdom with young and old alike: "You can be anything that you want to be."

Judge Jones is currently an active member of Bethlehem Baptist Church. He is a member of Bethlehem's Board of Trustees and has served for several years as its Chairman. His favorite Bible scripture is John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Judge Jones was born in Eufaula, Alabama. He has attended several institutions of higher learning which include: Texas Central State College, University of Maryland, the National Judicial College, University of Nevada, and American Academy of Judicial Education.

After serving twenty years in the United States Army he retired and settled in Columbia, South Carolina. He is married to Janet Ann Sims, Jones. They are the parents of Walter, Jr., Maurice, Jeannie, and Donna and they have two grandchildren, Christopher and Joseph Gilbert.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Judge Jones for his community involvement and support throughout the years, and I ask you to join with me in extending best wishes to him for a fulfilling retirement.

WELCOMING SENEGAL TO LOUISIANA

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Paul Ndong, Mayor of Joal-Fadiouth,

Senegal, West Africa, and his delegation as they visit their sister city, Baker, Louisiana.

Sharing similar traits such as their French heritage, seaside ports and a love for life, Louisiana and Senegal have several things in common. So, it is only natural that the town of Joal-Fadiouth and the town of Baker should select each other to be sister cities. As a result of a visit from Baker Mayor Bobby Simpson to Senegal last year, the mayor of Joal-Fadiouth, Mayor Paul Ndong, will visit Baker, Louisiana, this week and complete the ceremonial bridge that will formally unite these two cities. I am excited about this newly forged friendship and look forward to the promising partnership which stands to grow.

As these two cities continue to cultivate their friendships, I am confident that residents of both Baker and Joal-Fadiouth will gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of each other's culture and identities. Through education, scientific, economic development and cultural exchanges, the citizens of both of these cities have the tremendous opportunity to learn more about another country through exciting and interactive means. These real, hands-on experiences will bridge the geographical gap between Baker and Joal-Fadiouth and bring a land which was at once both foreign and distant, closer to home.

So, as Mayor Paul Ndong travels through Baker, I wish him the warmest welcome and hope that he enjoys and learns much from his stay. And in the tradition of our shared French heritage, I would like to say *soyez les bienvenus à la Louisiana—faites comme chez vous*.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES WOODSON ON WINNING THE 1997 HEISMAN TROPHY AWARD

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mr. Charles Woodson. Charles is the recipient of the 1997 Heisman Trophy, given each year by the Downtown Athletic Club to college football's most outstanding player.

Charles Woodson, who led the University of Michigan Wolverine Football Team to a perfect 12-0 record this past year, and the school's first National Football Championship in almost 50 years, is the first and only defensive football player ever to win the Heisman Trophy.

Charles Woodson, whose hometown is Fremont, Ohio in Sandusky County, broke quite a few Buckeye hearts when he chose to play football at Michigan instead of The Ohio State University. In fact, in arguably one of his finest performances of the year, Charles nearly single-handedly defeated the Buckeyes in Michigan's 20-14 victory.

Charles Woodson's success, both on and off the field, is a demonstration to all of us that hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence can truly have an impact on our lives. He is a prime example that good deeds are rewarded.

Not only by becoming the first and only defensive football player to win the Heisman tro-

phy, but with his positive attitude and strong work ethic, Charles Woodson is helping to redefine how college football players are judged.

Mr. Speaker, Charles Woodson is a truly gifted athlete, a team player, and a good person. I would urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the 1997 Heisman Trophy winner, from Fremont, Ohio, Mr. Charles Woodson.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATION CEREMONY OF "THE MONTEBELLO SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER ALEX ESQUIVEL COM- PLEX"

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication of the City of Montebello's Senior Citizen Center Alex Esquivel Complex. The Complex has been named after Mr. Alex Esquivel in recognition of his tireless and heartfelt dedication to the City of Montebello and its residents.

Today, the City of Montebello will host a special dedication ceremony in tribute to Alex for his over 30 years of caring service to the residents of Montebello, as an employee and resident of Montebello. To many in Montebello, Alex is known for doing the impossible in his relentless effort to assist those in need of shelter, food, counsel, or simply friendship.

Throughout his years with the City of Montebello, Alex has founded and sponsored countless programs for youth and seniors. Among the programs he has sponsored or founded in Montebello include: the Summer Youth Employment Program; Montebello Ponytail Softball Association; Azteca Head Start Preschool Program; Montebello Co-Ed Softball League; Association of Foster Parents; Girls Basketball League; Montebello Baseball Association; Boy Scouts of America; Girl Scouts of America; Careers for Older Americans; American Red Cross; American Legion Post #272; Lions Club; Rotary Club; Optimist Club; Soroptimist Club; Kiwanis Club; Ensenada Sister City Association; Senior Citizens Affairs Committee; juvenile diversion programs; family counseling; individual and group counseling; nutrition programs; and domestic violence programs.

For his years of exemplary service in the community he has received the City of Montebello's Career Contribution Award, he has served as the Grand Marshall of the Montebello Royale Parade, named the American Legion Man of the Year and the Montebello Boy Scouts of America Good Scout of the Year, and he has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alumni Association of the University of Mexico City.

On Friday, January 30, 1998, Alex Esquivel celebrated his 71st birthday. He resides in Montebello with his wife Rachel. They have four sons, Alex Jr., Ted, Robert, David and 10 grandchildren. He is a veteran of the Korean Conflict, former middle weight boxing champion, and the first American of Mexican descent drafted by the National Football League, having played for the Baltimore Colts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Alex Esquivel, one of our na-

tion's true heroes, for his lifetime of service to our country, his community and his neighbors as the City of Montebello dedicates the Montebello Senior Citizen Center Alex Esquivel Complex.

TRIBUTE TO THE SENECA COUN- TRY PORT PRODUCERS ASSOCIA- TION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding community organization from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On Sunday, February 1, 1998, the Seneca County Pork Producers Association will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

During all of its 50 year history, the Seneca County Pork Producers has demonstrated the highest commitment to the profession of farming, the agriculture industry, and to the community and residents of the Seneca County area.

As a resident of Old Fort, Ohio, in Seneca County, I have come to know the various members and leaders of the Seneca County Pork Producers. Those individuals are my friends, neighbors, and colleagues. They are always willing to lend a hand to folks who are in need, and give selflessly to the entire community.

It is an outstanding achievement that, after 50 years of dedication, the Seneca County Pork Producers continue to look into the future with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to what is sure to be another half century of success. By keeping pace with the improvements and overall changes in their profession, the Pork Producers have maintained the highest sense of responsibility to its members, and to the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to 50 years of achievement of the Seneca County Pork Producers, and in wishing them much success in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGGS V. ELLIOTT PLAINTIFFS, CLARENDON COUN- TY, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me during Black History month to honor a group of genuine American heroes. I rise to pay tribute to the original plaintiffs of *Briggs v. Elliott*. The heroism of these 20 individuals has changed both our country's past and future in a positive way.

While many have studied the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, few have heard the story of the individuals who questioned the status quo in a small South Carolina county. Beginning in 1947 with a community's desire to provide bus transportation for African American children who were