

Holden	McGovern	Rothman
Hooley	McHale	Roybal-Allard
Hoyer	McIntyre	Rush
Jackson (IL)	McKinney	Sabo
Jackson-Lee	McNulty	Sanchez
(TX)	Meehan	Sanders
Jefferson	Meek (FL)	Sandlin
John	Menendez	Sawyer
Johnson (WI)	Millender	Schumer
Johnson, E. B.	McDonald	Scott
Kanjorski	Miller (CA)	Serrano
Kaptur	Minge	Sherman
Kennedy (MA)	Mink	Siskis
Kennedy (RI)	Moakley	Skelton
Kennelly	Mollohan	Slaughter
Kildee	Moran (VA)	Smith, Adam
Kilpatrick	Murtha	Snyder
Kind (WI)	Nadler	Spratt
Klecza	Neal	Stabenow
Klink	Oberstar	Stenholm
Kucinich	Obey	Stokes
LaFalce	Olver	Strickland
Lampson	Ortiz	Stupak
Lantos	Owens	Tanner
Lee	Pallone	Tauscher
Levin	Pascarell	Taylor (MS)
Lewis (GA)	Pastor	Thompson
Lipinski	Payne	Thurman
Lofgren	Pelosi	Tierney
Lowey	Peterson (MN)	Turner
Luther	Pickett	Velazquez
Maloney (CT)	Pomeroy	Vento
Maloney (NY)	Poshards	Visclosky
Manton	Price (NC)	Waters
Markey	Rahall	Watt (NC)
Mascara	Rangel	Wexler
Matsui	Reyes	Weygand
McCarthy (MO)	Rivers	Wise
McCarthy (NY)	Rodriguez	Woolsey
McDermott	Roemer	Wynn

## NOT VOTING—35

Bateman	Harman	Quinn
Berman	Hefley	Scarborough
Boehner	Herger	Shaw
Burr	Johnson, Sam	Skaggs
Burton	Manzullo	Stark
Canady	Martinez	Taylor (NC)
Clement	McCrery	Torres
Coburn	McDade	Towns
DeFazio	Meeks (NY)	Waxman
Deutsch	Oxley	Wicker
Foley	Parker	Yates
Gonzalez	Paul	

□ 2333

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. PICKERING and Mr. KNOLLENBERG changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to present to you the 32nd annual report of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH),

the Federal agency charged with advancing scholarship and knowledge in the humanities. The NEH supports an impressive range of humanities projects advancing American scholarship and reaching millions of Americans each year.

The public has been enriched by many innovative NEH projects. These included a traveling exhibit, companion book, and public programming examining the history and legacy of the California Gold Rush on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial. Other initiatives promoted humanities radio programming and major funding for the critically acclaimed PBS series, "Liberty! The American Revolution."

The NEH is also utilizing computer technologies in new and exciting ways. Answering the call for quality humanities content on the Internet, NEH partnered with MCI to provide EDSITEMent, a website that offers scholars, teachers, students, and parents a link to the Internet's most promising humanities sites. The NEH's "Teaching with Technology" grants have made possible such innovations as a CD-ROM on art and life in Africa and a digital archive of community life during the Civil War. In its special report to the Congress, "NEH and the Digital Age," the agency examined its past, present, and future use of technology as a tool to further the humanities and make them more accessible to the American public.

This past year saw a change in leadership at the Endowment. Dr. Sheldon Hackney completed his term as Chairman and I appointed Dr. William R. Ferris to succeed him. Dr. Ferris will continue the NEH's tradition of quality research and public programming.

The important projects funded by the NEH provide for us the knowledge and wisdom imparted by history, philosophy, literature, and other humanities disciplines, and cannot be underestimated as we meet the challenges of the new millennium.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 21, 1998.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Before recognizing Members for 5-minute special orders, the Chair will recognize 1-minute requests, but not beyond midnight.

#### TOBACCO LEGISLATION

(Mr. GOODE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, there is legislation pending before both Houses of Congress that would raise the excise tax on tobacco products by \$1.50 per pack. As a practical matter, these proposals result in a total tax increase of at least \$500 billion over 25 years. This tax increase of a half trillion dollars

will fall most heavily on the American working men and women. Those who make \$30,000 per year pay 43 percent of the Federal tobacco tax burden.

□ 2340

The median income in the Fifth District of Virginia, which I represent, is less than \$28,000 per year. In fact, if this excise tax of \$1.50 per pack goes in, the Federal tax burden on the Virginia family in the Fifth District would be more than \$500 per year, and that is a staggering tax increase for a family that is struggling to make ends meet.

#### HONORING FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY COMMANDOS

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the House Committee on National Security unanimously approved my amendment to honor and recognize the former South Vietnamese army commandos who were employees of the United States Government during the Vietnam War.

Today, the Members of this House had the opportunity to properly honor those brave men by supporting the Department of Defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1999.

Last year, the President signed into law legislation that I advocated to ensure that the United States Government honor a 30-year-old bad debt and pay these men who worked for the United States Government the wages they earned but were denied during the Vietnam War.

These individuals were trained by the Pentagon to infiltrate and destabilize communist North Vietnam.

Many of these commandos were captured and tortured while in prison for 15 to 20 years, and many never made it out.

Declassified DOD documents showed that U.S. officials wrote off the commandos as dead even though they knew from various sources that many were alive in Vietnamese prisons.

The documents also show that U.S. officials lied to the soldiers' wives, paid them tiny "Death Gratuities" and washed their hands of the matter.

For example, Mr. Ha Va Son was listed as dead by our Government in 1967, although he was known to be in a communist prison in North Vietnam. Today he is very much alive and well and living in Chamblee, GA. In my hand I hold the United States Government's official declaration of his death.

Because it was a secret covert operation, the U.S. Government thought they could easily ignore the commandos, their families, friends, and their previous contacts without anyone noticing.

As the Senior Senator from Pennsylvania said in a recent hearing, "This is a genuinely incredible story of callous, inhumane, and really barbaric treatment by the United States."

In the 104th Congress, this House approved legislation that required the Department of Defense to pay reparations to the commandos.

This bill would have provided \$20 million to the commandos and their survivors, an average grant of about \$40,000 per commando. It called them to be paid \$2,000 a year for every year they were in prison, less than the wages they were due.

President Clinton signed this legislation into law (Public Law 104-201).

However, in April of 1997, the Department of Defense said that the statute was legislatively flawed and the Secretary could not legally make payments.

I then contacted Secretary Cohen requesting the administration's help to correct this error.

The administration responded by supporting inclusion of the funding in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1997 (Public Law 105-18).

Last year, I met at a public forum with 40 commandos from my district.

One individual shared with me his story of how he parachuted into enemy territory, was captured, convicted of treason, beaten, thrown into solitary confinement for 11 months, then moved among hard-labor camps for the next seven years.

His story is not unlike countless others. I request unanimous consent to insert into the record one story of this abuse headlined "Uncommon Betrayal" as reported by an Atlanta newspaper recently.

Today, however, I am pleased to provide this Body with this update.

To date, the Commando Compensation Board has been established at the Pentagon; 266 claims have been processed; 142 Commandos have been paid.

All this was made possible because of the commitment of this House.

After years of torture by the North Vietnamese, the callousness of being declared dead by the United States Government, and years of anguish over not receiving their rightful compensation—these brave men now deserve recognition.

The South Vietnamese Lost Army Commandos are finally a step closer to having the United States Government honor their contracts for their years of service to the United States Army.

I am proud that the members of the House had an opportunity to properly honor these brave men.

We can not bring those who perished back, but we can give these individuals the dignity and respect that's been so long overdue.

Who supports this resolution?

The State of California American Legion strongly endorses this amendment and I would like to submit the letter from the Department Commander Frank Larson into the RECORD.

In Commander Larson's letter dated May 1, 1998, he states, "Ms. SANCHEZ: I'm sure if history were unfolded for all to see it would show that the South Vietnamese commandos, who aided the United States Government in covert actions against the North Vietnamese, were responsible for saving many American lives."

It goes on to say: "To that end, the same recognition due our soldiers, sailors, marines and airman involved in the Vietnamese Conflict should be afforded to the former South Vietnamese commandos, who so gallantly served and endured."

It is also supported by: The Air Commando Organization; The Special Forces Organization.

American veterans who fought side by side with the Commandos, come to their defense in letters of support.

I would like to share with you what our soldiers have to say about the commandos.

This letter comes from a special forces NCO:

"Dear Sir: I had the opportunity to work with these men in which they not only risked their lives, but continually put themselves in harms way. \* \* \* We are aware of terrible trials and conditions these men endured for so long and we would like to help \* \* \*

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that last year, during POW/MIA recognition day, I had the opportunity to meet with several members of my veteran community.

I had the opportunity to speak with former POWs and family members whose loved ones were taken as prisoners or declared missing in action. Several of the veterans mentioned their support for the Commandos and urged that the Government honor its word.

Today, we gave these commandos what they really wanted, the distinction of honoring their service in the Vietnam War. And on behalf of the 40 commandos residing in the 46th Congressional District of California, I would like to thank the Members of this body for their commitment to honor and to recognize the former South Vietnamese army commandos.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a series of documents relating to these former South Vietnamese commandos.

#### UNCOMMON BETRAYAL

ABANDONED BY THE UNITED STATES, FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE COMMANDOS RISE FROM THE DEAD

On a moonlit night in May 1965, a large transport plane was flying low through the skies of northwestern North Vietnam on its way toward the town of Son La. Sitting nervously in the back of the plane was Team Horse, a group of five South Vietnamese commandos who were part of a covert CIA/Department of Defense (DOD) plan known as Operation Plan 34-Alpha (Oplan-34A). Team Horse was being parachuted in to reinforce the eight members of Team Easy, who had been deployed there in August 1963.

After making a first pass by the drop zone to release crates of supplies and a homing beacon, the plane circled around again and Team Horse parachuted out the back. Soon after hitting the ground the commandos knew their mission was a total bust. Soldiers from North Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security were waiting for them with rifles in hand. Even worse, Team Easy had been captured long ago, and the North Vietnamese had used that team's radio equipment to lure in Team Horse.

The five commandos were tried and convicted of treason, and sent to prison. Only one, team leader Quach Nhung, would survive incarceration. After more than 20 years of hard labor in a Vietnamese prison, Nhung was released and immigrated to the United States in 1994. He is one of about 30 former South Vietnamese commandos involved in Oplan-34A who now live in the Atlanta metro area.

Recently declassified documents have revealed Oplan-34A to be one of the most tragic and disturbing aspects of the Vietnam War. "When you read those documents, you want to cry," says Sedgwick Tourison, who used many of the papers to write *Secret Army, Secret War—Washington's Tragic Spy Oper-*

*ation in North Vietnam.* "It's disgusting. We sold [those commandos] down the river and walked away, and we did it with such clean hands. And as I put in the book, nobody thought this would ever surface."

Even Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, was shocked by the abuses. In a recent hearing on Capitol Hill, Specter said, "This is a genuinely incredible story of callous, inhumane, and really barbaric treatment by the United States."

#### A DOOMED OPERATION

From 1961 through the end of the decade, approximately 500 commandos separated into 52 small teams were sent into North Vietnam. Trained and funded first by the CIA, the operation was taken over by the DOD in 1964. At first, the teams were designed to gather intelligence, but their duties were later augmented to include psychological warfare and sabotage. Nearly of the commandos were either killed or captured almost immediately by the North Vietnamese, who had heavily infiltrated the operation with moles on the South Vietnamese side.

The entire operation was a failure, and documents now show that the CIA and the DOD knew that it was. Still, they continued to send commandos to their almost certain doom.

The United States' betrayal of the South Vietnamese commandos did not end there.

Once they had been captured, their families were notified not that they were prisoners of war or missing in action, but that they were dead. "The Defense Department compounded that tragedy by simply writing off the lost commandos," Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) said during the recent Senate hearing. "Drawing a line through their names as dead apparently in order to avoid paying monthly salaries [to the families]."

Says Tourison, who is the former Chief of Analysis in the Defense Intelligence Agency's office of POW/MIA affairs, "It was money more than anything else. The bottom line was that we did not want to pay them any more. We were recruiting new guys and telling them that if anything happens we'll take care of you, and we never had any intention of doing that. And because of the moles the North Vietnamese had on the inside, they knew what we had done. And once they found out, that sent a message to Hanoi that we viewed the lives of those who serve for us as of no consequence."

But the betrayal of the South Vietnamese commandos still did not end there.

Even though the United States knew many of them were in prison, nothing was ever done to get them out. As Kerry, himself a Vietnam War veteran, said at the hearing, "After sending these brave men, on what by anyone's judgment were next to suicide missions, and after cutting off their pay, we then committed the most egregious error of all: We made no effort to obtain their release along with American POWs during the peace negotiations in Paris [in 1973]. As a result, many of these brave men who fought alongside us for the same cause spent years in prison, more than 20 years in some cases."

The U.S. government is now trying to make up for its treatment of the commandos. On June 19, the Senate unanimously passed a bill that will pay the former commandos or their survivors \$40,000 each, which basically amounts to an average of \$2,000 back pay per year for an average of 20 years spent in prison.

Even though the commandos need the money and say they are looking forward to it, money cannot erase the past. "Forty thousand dollars is nothing," says Nhung. "No money can pay for my life."

## COMING TO AMERICA

Recently, three of the former South Vietnamese Oplan-34A commandos now living in the Atlanta area sit down to talk about their life during wartime and what moving to America has meant for them.

The site is the living room of a cramped apartment in an ersatz Colonial complex on a predominantly Asian stretch of Buford Highway just across the street from the Little Saigon strip mall. A group of happy, boisterous kids play on the landing. A strong odor of simmering soup rolls in from the kitchen.

Sitting around the table are Nhung, 52; Team Greco deputy commander Quash Rang, 58; and Team Pegasus leader Than Van Kinh, 67. Acting as interpreter is Ha Van Son, who had been part of a similar operation, Oplan-35. Son was imprisoned for 19 years and was also declared dead to his family by the United States. Members of his operation are also being considered for compensation in the Senate bill.

The men smoke almost constantly and emit a feeling of haggard world-weariness. They are all dressed similarly, in Oxford shirts and polyester slacks, and each has salt-and-pepper hair slicked down and parted to the side. When asked why they joined on with Oplan-34A, the answer comes quickly and not without some measure of incredulity.

"Because everybody wanted to fight against the communists," says Son, speaking for the group "Nobody fight with any other reason.

Tourison's book is filled with wrenching stories of commandos being starved and tortured while in prison, and the experiences of these men were equally brutal. "All of us were treated very, very badly," says Son. "All of us were shackled and put in a small cell for a long time. After that they take us to a big room where we concentrate with everybody. But they give us only a little of rice a day. Sometime no rice, but yellow corn. But the corn that's used for animals, not for man."

Even today, many of the commandos still suffer physically from their time spent in North Vietnamese prisons. "When we got tortured, everybody has a problem in their body," comments Son. "Like Than Van Kinh, all his teeth was broken out." With that cue, Kinh opens his mouth wide and taps his dentures with a finger. "And my leg sometimes is paralyzed. Everybody is like that in the winter. Sometimes we get pain and hurt in the knee and in the body. You see the outside is good [i.e., they look fine from the outside], but inside sometimes from the fall to winter, if the weather changes, everybody gets pain."

When they were released from prison, their lives improved little. Because they were branded as traitors in Vietnam, it was hard to get work. "It was very, very difficult because when we go to apply for a job in Vietnam, the Vietnamese communists check and they know that this was a spy commando," says Son. "So that everybody has to go to work as a farmer, and some drive a three-wheeled motorcycle in Saigon."

Tourison maintains that U.S. policy toward the commandos has ruined more than just their own lives. "In Vietnam, they are largely excluded from all legal forms of employment," he explains. "Because of that, the children normally have to cut their education short to engage in child labor to support their parents. We have visited the sins on three generations. The older couples, their children, and their grandchildren."

In Atlanta, some of the commandos are retired, but most are employed in various jobs. For example, Nhung works in a factory that

manufacturers containers, Son is a sales and leasing consultant at an auto dealership, and Rang and his wife own a beauty salon in Duluth—aptly named American Nails.

Remarkably, the commandos harbor less anger toward the United States than one might expect. "My friend Quach Nhung say, everybody still have a little anger with the leaders who betrayed us, but we know that they are not the representatives of U.S. government right now, they are not the American people," says Son, speaking for his comrade. "Of course, everybody get angry, but we have to talk with the American people and the American government to [let them] know about the facts of history. We think we have to fight for justice."

Son has been informed that the commandos should receive their back pay from the United States in about 18 months. When they receive those funds, the commandos plan to pool their resources. "In Atlanta, we have about 30 commandos," explains Son. "[We] will establish a joint venture corporation and maybe we will do a business like a Vietnamese market and everybody will work for our company, every commando and their family. And we think that corporation may develop for the commandos' children's future and take care of the old."

By combining the money they will get from the U.S. government, the commandos will have a substantial amount to work with. However, Son admits that when Americans learn what happened to them and how much the government is planning on compensating the commandos, many of them are appalled. "American people, they say, you are worth \$4 million, not \$40,000," says Son. "That's very cheap. It's a little bit."

## LET'S SCREW THEM AGAIN

Even though life seems to be on the upswing for the commandos, there are still a few snags. Some of the commandos, including Than Van Kinh, have had problems bringing their families to this country. His wife and son have been denied entrance.

"His wife was denied with no reason," says Son, translating Kinh's words. "We were very surprised because his wife was waiting for him from the time he was captured in North Vietnam."

Tourison also expresses exasperation that Kinh's wife was denied immigration. "Over the last 35 years, Than Van Kinh has spent maybe five or six years with his wife out of all of his adult life," he says. "This is a woman who worships the ground this guy walks on. They've been married since the 1950s, and these sons of bitches [in the Immigration and Naturalization Service], with a stroke of the pen say, 'Well we just don't believe she's your wife.' What are you going to do at that point? That's just so damn cruel."

There are also some 70 former still in Vietnam, some of whom have found getting less than easy.

"This is a relatively small community of people who paid a higher price than anyone who served us during the war," says Tourison. "Unfortunately, the State Department and the INS give them absolutely no priority. What that means is that when they submit papers to the embassy in Bangkok applying to depart Vietnam or they get a request for more documents, it can take six months to a year until someone acts on it. And you know what happens?"

"They die. I have gotten letters from commandos, and then six months later while they are waiting for an answer from the embassy in Bangkok, they die. It tears me apart every damn time that happens because it is so fundamentally wrong and so fundamentally counter to our own values. They were first in prison, last out, and let's screw them again."

As the former commandos wait for their payment from the United States, as they wait for other comrades and stranded family members to join them, they say they are enjoying their lives in America but have not forgotten their homeland. "Of course we miss Vietnam," says Son. "And everybody, except Mr. Kinh, who is too old, every commando thinks if we get a start on an organization, if we have weapons and we have [money], we want to go back to Vietnam to fight with the communists again."

"My friend Quach Nhung, he say, of course now I like it in America, it is better than in Vietnam, but because we have sacrificed for our country and for freedom, we did not like to see the Vietnamese communists take over. We want Vietnam to be a country with freedom, human rights, and democracy."

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,  
San Francisco, CA, May 1, 1998.

Hon. LORETTA SANCHEZ,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ: Be it war, police action or a conflict, everyone who participates puts certain things at risk. Mainly, their freedom, fortune and happiness—but for a cause. It is unfortunate that the turn of events which led to the culmination of the Vietnam Conflict are recorded as they are in history. But the cost of war does not necessarily stop with the signing of a peace agreement.

There are other residual costs that should be attended to. These costs are defined as recognition of those who served as our allies—those who believed in our causes, crossed the line and committed to the United States government. I'm sure if history were unfolded for all to see it would show that the South Vietnamese commandoes, who aided the United States government in covert actions against the North Vietnamese, were responsible for saving many American lives.

To that end, the same recognition due our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen involved in the Vietnamese Conflict should be afforded to the former South Vietnam commandoes, who so gallantly served and endured.

Sincerely,

FRANK C. LARSON,  
Department Commander.

## DEATH GRATUITY

15 SEPT, 1967.

I, Ha Van Cau TD# 06935, received from Liaison Bureau the amount of 61,200 \$VN for the death of Ha Van Son, son who was killed while on duty with FOB#1 Phu Bai. The above amount is paid as survivors death benefits.

This payment reflects full settlement of death gratuity and the United States Government is hereby released from any future claims arising from this incident.

Pay computation: 5,100 Monthly Pay12 Months = 61,200.

15 SEPT, 1967.

(Name of Employee) Ha Van Son.

(Pay Level and Step) EF-1.

(Number of Dependents) NONE.

(Date Employed) 30 May 1967.

(Date Separated) 2 Sept. 1967.

Reason for Separation: Deceased.

Period for which pay is computed: From 1 August to 2 September 1967.

Base pay: 169 (Daily) 33 (Days Worked) = Base pay due: 5,677\$.

Other: Operational mission pay. 150 3 Days = 450 \$VN

Total pay due on separation: 6,027\$.

I have received the amount of 6,027\$ which represents the total of all pay and allowances due me upon the termination of my employment.

HA VAN CAU (F)  
(Signature of Employee)

#### CAUTION REGARDING TOBACCO LEGISLATION IS URGED

(Mr. HEFNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, there is legislation in both bodies of this Congress that would place an excise tax which I think is very punitive and does not serve the purpose that I believe that we should be doing.

I do not believe that anyone wants to support children smoking. Certainly from the time I was a small child, my father always talked to me about how not to smoke; that it was not good for my health. I do not think there is any argument about that.

But we have farmers all over this country that depend upon tobacco for their livelihood, and they have made investments, they have borrowed money against the allotments on their farms. So any legislation that passes this House should take into consideration the hardships that it could put on the hundreds of thousands of farmers all over this country that depend on tobacco for their livelihood.

I would urge every Member of this House to be very cautious before we enter into any legislation that affects the tobacco farmer.

#### PUNITIVE PROPOSALS REGARDING TOBACCO LEGISLATION IS AF- FRONT TO FAIRNESS

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I plead for sanity in this tobacco debate. The punitive proposals before Congress are an affront to fairness.

These proposed tax increases will devastate farmers who have done absolutely nothing wrong. Excise tax increases are regressive and fall hardest on the people who can least afford to pay. These tax increases could be as much as \$900. They would wipe out the child tax credit that was passed last year and take two-thirds of the tax relief we have put in place for HOPE scholarships, and it is one of the largest tax increases ever. I was not elected to raise taxes on the 50 million people in America.

If we can protect farmers, and we certainly ought to stop children from smoking and provide the opportunity for that, and have a balanced agreement that reduces the litigation, protects farmers, and curbs teen smoking, I can support a responsible increase in prices. However, responsibility and balance has been abandoned. Tobacco liti-

gation is no longer about responsibly reducing teen smoking, it is about punishment, and we must return to sanity and a fair debate on this bill and stop this shameful political posturing.

#### HEFTY AND REGRESSIVE TAX BILL BEING PUSHED

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, if any legislative body in the world should stand up for families, it is the United States Congress.

Suddenly, in a mad rush to pursue political agendas, this body has nearly forgotten a certain group of families who, since the very beginning days of this Nation, have known for generations tobacco production as a way of life; a way of life that pays their bills, that helps build their communities' schools and hospitals and roads, and provides a way for thousands of hard working farmers throughout the Southeast to support their families.

Just a short while ago those farmers left their fields, after a full day of tending their crops, and right now, at this moment, they are wondering if they have any future.

Suddenly a hefty and regressive tax is being pushed that will hit hardest those in low- and middle-income brackets. Will families be first or last in this tax-and-spend agenda that will destroy the livelihood of honest working people?

May God help this body if it turns its back on the farmers, their families and their communities.

#### THE CLINTON NOMINEE FOR AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, James Hormel, President Clinton's nominee for the ambassadorship of Luxembourg, is a businessman, a diplomat, a former dean of the University of Chicago law school, a one-time delegate to the United Nations' Human Rights Commission and a philanthropist.

He has wide bipartisan support from Senators JOSEPH BIDEN to ORRIN HATCH, as well as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and even Alice Turner, Hormel's ex-wife. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has also approved his nomination. But he has not been able to get through the other body in terms of confirmation. And the reason is, Mr. Speaker, Hormel is gay.

I say it is time now to treat Americans as Americans, to end the vicious discrimination against gays and lesbians in this Nation. That is why we must pass the Employment Non-discrimination Act to eliminate dis-

crimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, no one is asking for any more benefits than any other citizen of the United States. We all are created equal. This is a shame and a travesty that this qualified gentleman cannot be approved and affirmed to be the ambassador of Luxembourg. We need to end discrimination now against gays and lesbians.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each until midnight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

#### VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER AND GRANTING OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Arkansas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN MICHAEL X. HARRINGTON

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding law enforcement official who the public could always count on. Port Authority Police Captain Michael X. Harrington holds a record that would make even Cal Ripken envious. While the Baltimore Orioles shortstop was honored for playing 16 years without calling in sick, he has a long way to go to match Captain Harrington.

On May 15, Captain Michael Harrington retired from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey after 43 years of service without ever missing a day of work.

When Captain Harrington began walking a beat for the Port Authority, Cal Ripken was not even born, the Dodgers were in Brooklyn, and there were just 48 States.

During his career, Captain Harrington outlasted eight U.S. Presidents, the Soviet Union, the Cold War and numerous fads, from coonskin caps to mood rings.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that Captain Harrington never missed a day's work is even more remarkable when we consider some of the obstacles he had to overcome. He found his way to work through blizzards, floods, hurricanes, blackouts and even riots. He did not let colds, or fevers above 102, injuries he sustained on the job, or even a broken wrist prevent him from doing his duty.