

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Madam Speaker, recently Dr. Gloria M. Shatto retired as president of Berry College. Dr. Shatto was inaugurated as Berry's sixth president in 1980 and thereby became the first woman to become a president of a college or university in the State of Georgia.

Dr. Shatto's honors include Phi Beta Kappa, the Organization of American States fellowship, the Organization of Women fellowship, and the list goes on and on.

To show its appreciation to Dr. Shatto, Berry College honored her with a "Voice of Berry Lifetime Award." The award is presented annually to a student, faculty, or staff member for communicating effectively to enhance morale, ability to motivate and inspire others, and the willingness to encourage open and free discussion.

Madam Speaker, Berry College is consistently recognized as one of the outstanding small comprehensive colleges in the South. Berry offers work experience as part of every student's development. Approximately 90 percent of the students are employed on campus in 120 job classifications during an academic year.

Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of Dr. Shatto's outstanding service to Berry College and Berry's outstanding service to our Nation.

COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO LEGISLATION NEEDED

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, this past Saturday marked the 1-year anniversary of the State attorneys general's proposed tobacco settlement. Ironically, this anniversary was also marked by the death of tobacco legislation in this Congress.

Since June 1997, Congress has done nothing to stem the willful and destructive forces of the tobacco industry. Today, more than a year later, all we see is a list of principles from the majority party that protects Big Tobacco and still punishes teens.

By selling out to Big Tobacco, the 105th Congress has failed to act while an astounding 1,095,000 more kids became addicted to this lethal product. During this 1-minute speech, two more children will become addicted to tobacco. This tombstone symbolizes the 1,095,000 children addicted to tobacco just in the last year.

Madam Speaker, if we are serious about reducing teen smoking, we need to pass important and comprehensive legislation and we need to raise the legal purchase price from 18 to 21 years old. Let us not make this paper tombstone turn to stone.

IRS REFORM

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to compliment the House for its vote last week to abolish the Tax Code by 2002. Although it is unlikely that this bill will become law, it is a significant first step in our effort to fundamentally reform the current Internal Revenue Code. If we are ever to reform our tax system, we must focus the debate on how we will change the Tax Code, not if or when.

The existing Tax Code is a complex web of credits, deductions, and revenue rulings which shifts resources and time from productive economic activities to tax compliance. Furthermore, taxpayers with identical incomes often have vastly different tax liabilities.

It is time we in Congress provide the American taxpayer with a Tax Code which promotes economic growth, lessens the burdens of compliance on individuals and small businesses and, most importantly, reestablishes fairness.

Madam Speaker, I look forward today to voting on IRS reform later on this afternoon.

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ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about students. I would like to take a moment to recognize students who epitomize the phrase "patriotism."

This year I had the pleasure of nominating 37 young men and women from the 16th Congressional District of Pennsylvania to the four United States service academies. I am very pleased that 20 of these students were appointed to the academies.

Next week those young men and women will start a journey, 4 years of study at premier institutions of higher learning, followed by active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces. They will not only study academics but prepare themselves militarily and physically for service to the Nation as military officers.

They are living proof of the phrase "duty, honor, country," and they are tomorrow's leaders. Therefore, I would like to join their parents and friends in saluting these students.

ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. ROGAN. Madam Speaker, last week Congress passed legislation making it easier for parents to save for their children's education. With this in mind, I would like to pose a few questions to the defenders of the education status quo.

Given that most of you have done this for your own children's education, why is it so bad for other parents to do so? Why is giving one's children more educational opportunities a bad thing? If parental choice on education really harms public schools, then does that mean that parents who desire to send their children to private or religious schools should be condemned because they are harming public schools?

What about all of those Members of Congress and public school teachers who send their children to private schools?

Lastly, what do you say to those parents in poor areas with dangerous, dysfunctional schools for their children? Too bad? Tough luck?

America demands and deserves answers to these critical questions.

CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS WILDLAND FIRE INITIATIVE

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, each night on the evening news in our media across this country we see the devastation being caused by forest fires and wildlands fires. Florida is being devastated as we stand here today; Texas, the West, California.

Today at 11:30 in the Rayburn, Room 2216, a bipartisan group of our colleagues will come together and announce a six-part initiative that will deal with the issue of wildlands and forest fires. We will review what actions Members of Congress are taking to enhance the capability to use, in one case, Cold War technology to detect these fires at their inception.

We will talk about resources that this Congress has in fact provided this year and in past years to improve the capability of our local emergency responders to deal with these disasters. I encourage our colleagues to join with us in announcing these initiatives to assist these States during their time of need.

NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I remember the Cuban missile crisis. I remember fallout shelters. I remember the drills we had to do when I was a child to protect us from a nuclear attack.

During the 1950s, America was practicing for what we thought was the inevitable. I do not want our Nation's children to ever experience that. It is time for us to build a national missile defense to protect our children.

The good news is we have the technology to knock missiles right out of

the sky. The bad news is the administration does not think it is necessary. That is right. If an enemy missile was launched at the United States, our super-sophisticated computers would pick it up right away and calculate exactly where it was going to hit and when. And then nothing. All we could do is wait for it to hit its target and pray for all of the lives that would be lost.

We have the capability to protect ourselves with a national missile defense. We just choose not to build it.

Madam Speaker, I remember the 1950s. Let us use our technology to protect our kids. I want our kids to grow up happy and carefree, not practicing what to do when nuclear missiles are launched at us.

Let us build a national missile defense. Let us do it for our kids.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF HOUSE AND SENATE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY DISTRICT WORK PERIOD

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 491 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 491

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order, any rule of the House to the contrary notwithstanding, to consider a concurrent resolution providing for adjournment of the House and Senate for the Independence Day district work period.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER). During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), distinguished majority leader.

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, we are about to take up a resolution for adjournment for the Independence Day work period. It will be a good period of time for all of us to go home, be in touch with our constituents in our districts, something we need to do, something we enjoy doing.

While we are home, Madam Speaker, undoubtedly we are going to encounter so many constituents who are going to again express their commitment to and their concern for the education of their children. This is a major, major concern of the American people. The American people celebrate their good

schools, and they worry about the schools that are not performing on behalf of the children.

The American people take the education of their children very, very seriously. Where they can, when they have the resources, they couple, along with their wish that America have the best schools in the world for their children, their own personal commitment to put their own child in the best school possible. Every parent wants this, rich and poor alike.

Madam Speaker, just a few weeks ago we passed on to the President of the United States a bill that would have provided scholarship opportunities for the parents of poor children so that those children might be moved from a school that was failing them to a school in which the child could succeed. The President vetoed that.

Despite the fact that it was new money additional funding, the President vetoed that because he thought somehow that might be destructive to the public schools, without ever realizing that when the public schools are accountable to the parents, the public schools do better. When the parents have a right and an ability to move their children to a better school, the children are better off and the schools are better off.

Today, Madam Speaker, we will enroll a bill before we go home on this district recess period that makes available again the opportunity for choice to parents, further enhanced by tax-deductible savings accounts for those parents who can afford it so that they might be able to save their own money, in addition to the taxes they pay for schools, save their own money and have the opportunity to move their child to a better school.

Once again, the President says he is going to veto this because he says it is unfair to the poor children.

Well, no, Mr. President, you were unfair to the poor children when you vetoed the earlier bill. Are you going to couple that now to be unfair to the children whose parents work, save, sacrifice and wish only that little bit of edge that could come in tax-free savings accounts for their children's education because, once again, Mr. President, your complaint is it hurts the public schools?

This is no deduction in funds available for the public schools. It is only a modest increase in freedom and resources to living parents who know themselves to be the child's first, most dedicated teacher, to use their own resources to move the child to the best school possible.

It is time, I believe, for all of this government, the House, the Senate, and the White House to respond to the needs of the parents of America. Give each parent, rich or poor, able to save or not, the opportunity to do what each parent wants most deeply in their heart to do: provide the best possible opportunity for their child.

Do not veto that bill, Mr. President. Sign it. Show that you care for the parents who care for their children.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 491 provides for consideration in the House of a concurrent resolution providing for the adjournment of the House and Senate for the Independence Day work period.

All points of order are waived against the resolution and its consideration.

Madam Speaker, obviously this has been a very busy year in the House. We have spent a significant number of hours on the floor debating issues ranging from higher education priorities to transportation needs, from the self-determination of the people of Puerto Rico to financial services modernization.

The House will have passed five appropriations bills by the time we leave for our Fourth of July district work period later today, and we will hopefully pass the other appropriations bills soon after returning from the break.

While adjournment resolutions are usually privileged, a rule is needed in order to waive a point of order that could be raised against the Fourth of July district work period resolution on the grounds that it would violate section 309 of the Budget Act which prohibits the House from adjourning for more than 3 days in July unless the House has completed action on all appropriations bills.

Independence Day is a time to be back in our districts, not only celebrating the birth of this great Nation but meeting with and listening to what our constituents have to say about the issues that are important to them. I personally, as I am sure most Members of this House, have numerous meetings with constituent groups scheduled in the next days.

The Congress has very important spending decisions to make with limited funds, and time spent in our districts listening to the priorities of our constituents will be very worthwhile.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I feel it appropriate that we in the House return to our districts for the Independence Day work period to reflect together with our constituents on the principles that founded this Nation and also to consult with them and think out loud with them on the issues that confront us in the weeks ahead.

I would urge adoption of this resolution, 491.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 491 waives all points of order against the consideration of the resolution providing for