

10,000 volunteers, up about 35,000 more volunteers, serving overseas by the year 2000. The demand for their service is there, the supply is not, and the only thing that stands between that is the United States Congress and its ability to appropriate the funds. I encourage my colleagues to do so.

The proposed expansion of the Peace Corps comes at a time when the interest in serving as a volunteer is particularly high. Last year, more than 150,000 Americans contacted the Peace Corps to request information on serving as volunteers, an increase of more than 40 percent since 1994.

The value of the volunteers and their experience is not restricted to overseas service. I can testify that the best service that is given to the Peace Corps is the domestic dividend that we all bring when we come home.

I urge all of those Members of Congress that they ought to think someday even when they retire, that Peace Corps has no limit to the age that one can enter. Remember President Carter's mother who entered the Peace Corps in her elderly years. I encourage on this 37th anniversary of the Peace Corps that we all be proud of what was created here in the House of Representatives and what has served its country well, the United States Peace Corps.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN GARNER E. SHRIVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor of the House both to commemorate and honor the life of a former Member of this distinguished body, Garner E. Shriver. Garner died this past Sunday, March 1, at age 85.

Both my wife Vickie and I were deeply saddened when we learned of Garner's death. Over the past couple years, Garner had become a personal friend and someone whom I admired greatly. I speak for the entire Kansas delegation in Congress when I say our thoughts and prayers are with Garner's wife, Martha Jane, and their three children, Kay, David and Linda.

Born on July 6, 1912, in Towanda, Kansas, Garner's family later moved to Wichita in 1925, where he attended public schools and graduated from East High School.

Garner stayed in Wichita to receive his undergraduate degree from the University of Wichita, now Wichita State University, in 1934. Today his Congressional papers, amounting to over 180,000 items, are kept at the Wichita State Ablah Library.

In 1940, Garner graduated from Washburn Law School in Topeka, Kansas. Garner put himself through both undergraduate and law school by working odd jobs, including serving as a doorman.

In 1941 Garner married his wife of now 56 years, the former Martha Jane

Currier. However, before Martha and Garner had a chance to begin raising a family, World War II pulled Garner away from home for 3 years. He enlisted in the Navy, but after only 10 months he received a commission as Lieutenant, leaving the Navy after 3 years as an officer. During his tour in the Navy, Garner commanded a boat group in the Pacific by the end of the war.

Not long after the war ended, Garner made his first attempt at elected office. His wife Martha Jane recently recounted the story in the Wichita Eagle of how Garner first got into politics. She noted that "he figured he didn't have anything to lose," so in 1946, Garner ran for the Kansas House of Representatives. She continued, "When we went to bed that election night, we didn't know anything about elections. We woke up the next morning to find out he had won by 222 votes."

So began the long and distinguished career of a great Kansas politician. After serving only 2 terms in the Kansas House, Garner set his sights higher and was elected to the Kansas State Senate, where he served two terms.

During his 12 years of service in the Kansas legislature, Garner championed many worthwhile causes, including education for handicapped and retarded children, getting and keeping reckless drivers off the highways, creating the State Park Authority, important flood control legislation, and setting up the 4-H livestock show.

In 1960, Garner left State politics to run for Congress. Winning what was characterized as a very spirited race, Garner became the new representative of the 4th Congressional District. At that time the district included Sedgwick and 14 other counties and was considered to be heavily democratic.

Garner went on to win 8 consecutive races before losing in a narrow defeat, 3,200 votes, in 1976, to former Congressman and now Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

During his 16 years in Congress, Garner became an influential voice on significant issues of the day, including health and education benefits for our Nation's veterans, and landmark civil rights legislation. Garner served on the committee that drafted the the Civil Rights Act of 1964. His family is very proud of the fact that they have one of the pens LBJ used to sign the historic legislation into law.

Elected in the same class as fellow Kansan Bob Dole, Garner quickly became a close friend and political confidant of Senator Dole. Upon learning of Garner's death, Senator Dole stated that "Garner was one of my closest political friends when we served together in Congress. I, like many others, learned a lot from Garner, who was known as a quiet and effective legislator, and someone who kept his word. He was an exemplary husband and father."

While Garner worked on various issues of national concern during his

time, Garner spent a lot of his time taking care of the direct needs and concerns of his constituents back in Kansas. As a senior member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, Garner was in a unique position to protect the vital interests of both the 4th Congressional District and the State of Kansas.

When Garner left Congress in 1977, he was ranking member of the Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee and the third ranking Republican on the full committee. In that important capacity, Garner was able to make sure Kansas was never overlooked during the Federal budget process.

On a more personal level, I want to express my heartfelt thanks again to Garner for his advice and counsel upon my appointment to the Appropriations Committee after my reelection last year. Before my appointment last year, 20 years had passed since a Kansan had served on the important committee in either the House or Senate. Seeking to understand the first thing about the Appropriations Committee and how it operated, I was fortunate to be able to receive the sage counsel of Garner on the ins and outs of this committee.

After leaving Congress in 1977, Garner returned home to Wichita, Kansas, where he resumed the practice of law and spent the rest of his life alongside his lovely and dedicated wife, Martha Jane. Today, it is only appropriate that we remember and celebrate the life and accomplishments of Garner E. Shriver.

Garner Shriver will be missed, not only by his family, but by me and a lot of other Kansans, Kansans who considered him a friend, an American hero, who lived his life with courage, character and integrity.

So long, Garner. May God bless your soul and your family.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the record a copy of a letter to Mrs. Martha Jane Shriver signed by the entire Kansas delegation.

U.S. CONGRESS,  
Washington, DC, March 2, 1998.

Mrs. MARTHA JANE SHRIVER,  
Wichita, Kansas.

DEAR MRS. SHRIVER: We were deeply saddened when we learned of Garner's death yesterday morning. We want you and your three children, Kay, David and Linda to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We wish we could be with you this Wednesday for Garner's funeral. However, Congress will be in session that day. Representative Tiahrt has reserved time on the floor of the House of Representatives for this Tuesday, March 3, to allow us the opportunity to commemorate the distinguished life of Garner.

During the nearly 30 years of elected public office the name of Garner Shriver became synonymous with Wichita and south-central Kansas. Indeed, Monday's headline in the Wichita Eagle obituary for Garner summed it up well: Garner Shriver was a political giant. While most of us were too young to remember back 50 years ago when Garner began his political career, everyone can be proud of the many accomplishments he achieved during the 12 years he served in the Kansas Legislature and the 16 years he served in the United States Congress.

Elected to Congress in 1960, Garner quickly became a close friend and advisor to another famous Kansan—fellow classmate Bob Dole. During his tenure in Congress, Garner became an influential voice on significant issues of the day, including health and education benefits for our nation's veterans, and the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Additionally, Garner effectively combined his political prowess and position on the powerful House Appropriations Committee to make sure Kansas was never overlooked during the federal budget process. And while championing the rights of the average taxpayer, Garner was often heard complaining that members spent "too much of taxpayers' money on junketeering and increased staff."

In addition to being a loyal husband, Garner was a caring and loving father, an honored public servant and a personal friend to thousands of Kansans who, like us, will miss his wit and personal charm. Finally, we wish to recognize, as was noted in his obituary, that Garner viewed public service as a mandate for living a Christian life. We pray that the Lord gives us the same grace he provided Garner during his distinguished public career.

If there is anything we can do to help you during this difficult time, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

SAM BROWNBACK,  
PAT ROBERTS,  
U.S. Senate.  
TODD TIAHRT,  
JERRY MORAN,  
JIM RYUN,  
VINCE SNOWBARGER,  
Members of Congress.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in honoring the memory of former Kansas Congressman Garner Shriver who was sadly taken from us this week. Garner Shriver will always be remembered as one of Kansas' most effective and revered public servants.

Garner served his country as an enlisted man and as an officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Upon his return, he served 12 years in the Kansas Legislature and was later elected to serve 8 consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Here in the House of Representatives he quickly became known as a tireless advocate for our nation's veterans and as a thorough legislator who made sure Kansas was never overlooked in needed federal appropriations.

A quiet, thoughtful man, Garner viewed his public service as a Christian duty. In the process, he achieved great legislative successes benefiting both our nation and his home state of Kansas.

Garner Shriver was a skilled political leader who helped shape the attitudes of an entire generation of young Kansans. It is to his credit, that those of us who have gathered here today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to him were among them.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Martha Jane, and their three children, Kay, David, and Linda. Garner Shriver has left a void that will surely be hard to fill.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the tribute to the late Honorable Garner E. Shriver.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1300

#### CONGRESS HAS AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR NATION'S EDUCATION

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this year the Congress has an historic opportunity to improve the quality of our Nation's education. Teachers are the foundation of our entire educational system, but right now we have a serious problem with the way we prepare and deploy teachers. One in four high school teachers does not even have a college minor in the subject they teach. In high poverty schools, the figure is one in two.

Last week it was reported that U.S. students performed poorly in math and science compared to students in other countries. It is no coincidence that many of these students' teachers have no math or science background. The Committee on Education and the Workforce is about to mark up legislation to upgrade teacher preparation and to attract talented individuals to the profession of teaching.

I will offer my own legislation, H.R. 2228, which would provide for the forgiveness of student loans to qualified entry-level teachers, increase professional development of new teachers, strengthen the standards for federally-supported teacher programs, and require schools to inform parents about the qualifications of their child's teacher.

I support reducing classroom size by hiring more teachers, but when it comes to teachers, more is not enough. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2228.

#### ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to explain why enactment of the Marriage Tax Elimination Act is so important with a series of questions: Do Americans feel that it is fair that our Tax Code imposes a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do Americans feel that it is fair that 21 million married working couples suffer a tax penalty of \$1,400 more in taxes just because they are married? Do Americans feel that it is right that our Tax Code actually provides an incentive to get divorced?

The answer is pretty clear. Not only is the marriage tax penalty unfair, but it is wrong that our Tax Code punishes a married working couple with two incomes with higher taxes than an identical couple that chooses to live together outside of marriage. Twenty-one million married working couples suffer an average marriage tax penalty of \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married.

Some would say, why does that happen? Under our current Tax Code, a married working couple with two incomes usually files jointly. When they do, their combined income pushes them into a higher tax bracket.

Let me give an example here of a south suburban couple. I represent the south side of Chicago, the south suburbs in Illinois, as well as a lot of bedroom communities and rural areas. Let me give an example of a couple that lives in Joliet. Say you have a machinist who is working at the Joliet Caterpillar Manufacturing Plant, where they make heavy industrial equipment like bulldozers and cranes and earth movers. This machinist is making \$30,500 a year in average income. If he is single, after standard deductions and exemptions, he is in the 15 percent tax bracket, being taxed at the 15 percent rate.

Say he meets a gal and she is a public school teacher in the Joliet public schools. She has an identical income. This machinist who works the caterpillar and this Joliet public school teacher decide to get married. She has an income of \$30,500 as well. When you combine their income when they file jointly, it produces a \$1,400 average marriage tax penalty. Is that fair, just because this machinist at Caterpillar and this Joliet public school teacher decide to get married, that they should pay higher taxes just because they are married?

I think it is wrong that our Tax Code punishes this machinist and this school teacher. I believe we should make it a priority to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. If we think about it, in Joliet Illinois, in the district I am proud to represent, for this machinist and public schoolteacher, \$1,400 is a lot of money. That is one year's tuition at Joliet Junior College, it is 3 months of day care at a local day care center, it is several months' worth of car payments and a significant portion of a down payment on a new home.

The Marriage Tax Elimination Act, which now has 235 cosponsors, would eliminate the marriage tax penalty and eliminate it now, because we would give married working couples with two incomes the power of choice to choose to file as two singles or jointly, whichever is to their financial advantage.

The bottom line is, each individual, this machinist and this schoolteacher, under the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, would be able to enjoy the lower tax rate and would be at the 15 percent rate, allowing them to keep that \$1,400.