

of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903) as amended by section 103 of Public Law 103-296, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Social Security Advisory Board to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mrs. Dorcas R. Hardy, Spotsylvania, Virginia.

There was no objection.

TAX FACTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, 6 days from now millions of Americans will be scrambling to get their Federal income taxes done. Every year at this time we are reminded how much of a burden the American tax payer bears. Here are some facts: 10 years ago the IRS said it took the average person 9½ hours to complete a 1040 form. Today it takes 13 hours. That is enough time to play four baseball games. This year it will cost Americans about \$194 billion just to comply with the tax code, enough to buy 4.7 million brand-new Cadillacs. The IRS employs over 104,000 people. That is four times as many people that work for the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, if there is a lesson to learn from all of this it is this: that taxes will keep going up and up if we do not constantly fight to keep them down.

In 1913, the first year of the Federal income tax, the top rate was 7 percent and that was the rate for millionaires. Today the top rate is almost 40 percent.

The American people need more tax relief, tax reform and IRS reform; and I urge my colleagues to make this a priority this year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAMS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we return from recess, all of us saw a great deal of basketball; and I want to congratulate three outstanding high schools in my district for having won championships: Westinghouse, State of Illinois Boys' Championship; Providence St. Mel, Elite 8 Illinois high school regional champions. And I might add that 95 percent of all the students at this school go to college. I would also like to give accolades to Marshall High School for winning the city of Chicago's girls' championship under the leadership of Mr. Pitman and Dorothy Gaiter, who is the winningest female basketball coach in the United States of America. I congratulate all of them.

FN MANUFACTURING, A NATIONAL ASSET

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Operation Anaconda has been successfully concluded, and while we are thankful for the courage and valor of our military in the field, we also owe thanks to those Americans who provide the weapons our troops need, which made this victory and future victories possible.

Last week I toured a national asset in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, FN Manufacturing of Columbia. This company makes over 75 percent of the machine guns, rifles and other small arms of the U.S. Armed Forces. These are the finest infantry weapons ever made: rugged, dependable and effective.

Five hundred professional South Carolinians, skilled machinists, fabricators, designers, and engineers are dedicated to maintaining their world-famous high qualities. I met in person the hard-working FN employees who are making a difference for peace through strength.

America is fortunate to have a proven supplier whose products are clearly needed and highly praised by those in harm's way as we proceed to victory in the war on terrorism.

PENSION REFORM

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I can report that the pension reform bill that passed on a partisan vote from our committee does not help employees. Instead, big business is allowed to keep a two-tiered pension system, a system that protects executives but leaves the employees to fend for themselves; and that is wrong.

I offered an amendment in committee, Mr. Speaker. That amendment ensures that hard-working Americans have the same pension protections as their company's executives. Democrats are fighting for employees who work hard, who play by the rules, who plan their retirement, not punish them. Not punish them by allowing executives to raise the pension funds and then get off scott-free.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join us as we fight to enact real pension reform parity between executives and their employees.

GOVERNOR GUINN'S VETO

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Nevada made history. History, Mr. Speaker, because Nevada's Governor, Kenny Guinn, vetoed a Presidential decision, a decision to ship nuclear waste to the State of Nevada. Almost 2 decades ago when Nevada was given the right to cast this veto, we were under the impression that a recommendation on Yucca Mountain would be based on sound science, assuring the safety and security of Nevadans and every American.

Instead, the process has been riddled with bias, and the DOE recommendation was based on political expediency. For example, the DOE refuses to address the inherent problems that come with transporting the deadliest substance known to man through 43 States and for 3 decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Governor Guinn's decision to stand up to the convoluted mess of special interests and corruption that the Department of Energy refers to as the Yucca Mountain project.

I urge my colleagues to join Nevada's Governor and delegation in opposing a project that is immeasurably dangerous to every American.

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ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST TERRORISM

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, for like millions of Americans, I pray for the peace of Jerusalem almost every day, for the peace and security of the Jews and the Christians and the Muslims who call this ancient city their home. And, of course, we now know that after 18 months of suicide bombings and relentless terrorist attacks, Israel has begun to defend itself, rolling armaments and military personnel into the West Bank, and not without results, uncovering 15 explosive labs, arresting 600 fugitives from crime, and of course, there have been no recent suicide bombings since the incursion. Nevertheless, the President of the United States yesterday encouraged Israel to withdraw from the West Bank without delay.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of hundreds of thousands of believing Christians and Jews across Indiana, and even many Muslims who pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and say let us stand with Israel without delay.

Let the word go forth from this Chamber, to this administration and to the world, that the citizens of this country and the overwhelming majority of this Congress says America stands with Israel.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Pursuant to clause

8 of rule XX the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR AND COMMENDING NATIONAL ETHNIC COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 377) recognizing the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and commending the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 377

Whereas the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, established by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations in 1986, pays tribute to individuals of various ethnic origins who have distinguished themselves through their contributions to the United States;

Whereas the Ellis Island Medal of Honor has been awarded on a bipartisan basis to 6 Presidents and numerous Representatives and Senators;

Whereas the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations is the largest organization of its kind in the United States, representing more than 5,000,000 family members and serving as an umbrella group for more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritage, culture, and religion;

Whereas the mandate of the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote equality and tolerance, combat injustice, and bring about harmony and unity among all peoples;

Whereas the Ellis Island Medal of Honor is named for the gateway through which more than 12,000,000 immigrants passed in their quest for freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and economic opportunity;

Whereas the Ellis Island Medal of Honor celebrates the richness and diversity of American life by honoring not only individuals, but the pluralism and democracy that have enabled the Nation's ancestry groups to maintain their identities while becoming integral parts of the American way of life;

Whereas during the 15-year history of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, more than 1,500 individuals from scores of different ethnic groups have received the Medal, and more than 5,000 individuals are nominated each year for the Medal; and

Whereas at the 2002 Ellis Island Medal of Honor ceremony in New York City, individuals from different ethnic groups will be honored for their contributions to the rescue and recovery efforts of September 11, 2001, the war against terrorism, and the enhancement of the Nation's homeland security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for acknowledging individuals who live exemplary lives as Americans; and

(2) commends the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations for its sponsorship of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 377 recognizes the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and commends the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations.

The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations represents more than 5 million people and serves as an umbrella group for more than 250 organizations. Those groups span the spectrum of ethnic heritage, culture and religion. The mandate of the Coalition is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote equality and tolerance, combat injustice and bring about harmony and unity among all people.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was established by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations in 1986. It honors the many groups who have struggled and sacrificed to help build this great Nation. Past medal winners include six Presidents: Presidents Clinton, Bush, Reagan, Carter, Ford and Nixon. Senators, Congressmen, and Nobel Prize winners are also among the 1,500 people who have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor celebrates the richness and diversity of American life. The award honors more than just individuals. It honors the pluralism and democracy that have enabled our ancestry groups to maintain their identities while becoming integral parts of American life.

By honoring these individuals, we honor all those who share their origins. We acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to our country.

The 2002 Ellis Island Medals of Honor will be awarded on May 11. They will honor those individuals from different ethnic groups who contributed to the rescue and recovery efforts stemming from September 11. They will also honor those involved in the war against terrorism and the enhancement of our Nation's homeland security. I congratulate this year's honorees.

I want to commend the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for their sponsorship of this resolution and for their support of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. I would also like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. WAX-

MAN), the ranking member, for helping to bring this important resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, our diversity and our tolerance are two uniquely American values that make this country great. During these troubled times of ethnic strife all around the world, these values are worth reflecting on and honoring in this country. I commend the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. I urge adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I would consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) in consideration of this resolution.

This resolution, which recognizes the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and commends the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, NECO, encourages diversity and tolerance in American life. The mission of the NECO is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote equality and tolerance, combat injustice and bring about harmony and unity to all people.

To promote its mission, the NECO hosts the Ellis Island Medals Awards Gala, which honors Americans of various ethnic origins for their outstanding contributions to this country.

From 1892 to 1954, over 12 million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor. Ellis Island is located in the upper bay just off the New Jersey coast, within the shadow of the Statue of Liberty.

From the very beginning of the mass migration that spanned 1880 to 1924, a group of politicians and nativists demanded increased restrictions on immigration. Laws and regulations such as the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Alien Contract Labor Law, and the institution of a literacy test tried to stem the tide of new immigrants to this country.

Ellis Island ceased to be a major entry point for immigrants in 1921 with the passage of Quota Laws and in 1924 with the passage of the National Origins Act. These restrictions were based upon a percentage system according to the number of ethnic groups already living in the United States as per the 1890 and 1910 Census.

It was an attempt to preserve the ethnic flavor of the "old immigrants," those earlier settlers primarily from northern and western Europe. The perception existed that the newly arriving immigrants, mostly from southern and eastern Europe, were somehow inferior to those who came earlier.

It is appropriate then that Congress recognizes organizations like NECO and American citizens who recognize the importance of preserving ethnic diversity and fostering harmony and unity among all peoples.

Who decides whose identity, culture, or ethnicity is more important or has