EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRESERVATION TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2003

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the ''Affordable Housing Preservation Tax Relief Act,'' legislation to maintain and increase the stock of affordable housing in this country. I am delighted to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN.

In 1999, Congress recognized the need to look at this issue by establishing the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission (MHC). That Commission was charged with taking a thorough look at what the government was doing to fill the huge unmet gap for affordable housing.

The MHC released their report in May of 2000. The report stated, ''In 1999 one in four—almost 28 million—American households reported spending more on housing than the Federal Government considers affordable and appropriate (more than 30 percent of income).''

The MHC report also contained a list of 13 recommendations for making housing more affordable. One of those recommendations was for Congress to provide a ''new tool'' to encourage the transfer of affordable housing to entities that agree to maintain these properties and keep them affordable. They recommended doing so by forgiving the depreciated recapture tax for owners who sell their properties to purchasers who agree to maintain them for a 30-year period and to keep them affordable. The MHC recommendation would still hold owners responsible for any capital gains taxes due above and beyond the depreciated amount.

The lack of affordable housing is something I hear about and see all across my congressional district and my State. Indeed recent data shows that approximately 35 percent of renters in Minnesota pay over 30 percent of their income on housing and 15 percent of renters pay over 50 percent of their income on their housing.

The legislation we are introducing today tracks closely with the recommendation made by the MHC. I believe enactment of this legislation would be an important step toward maintaining and increasing affordable housing in this country, and I urge my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD J. DRAKE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edward J. Drake, a son of Dallas, Texas, and a good servant to his family, his faith, and his community.

In the Bible, Timothy describes charity as, ''out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.'' Over the years, Ed Drake has served those around him, not only with charity, but also with dedication and humility. The breadth of his service to the Dallas community and to our Nation is wide, and includes activities such as representing human health needs, developing positive environments for business, and fighting for the democracy that he cherishes.

Through his leadership in organizations such as the National Easter Seal Society, the American Cancer Society, and the Science Place, Ed Drake has helped our Nation address critical health needs. In his professional life, his integrity and loyalty have carried him to the top of the Dallas business community and earned him honors such as his appointment as Commissioner of the Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, among many others. Finally, Mr. Drake's love of democracy and work defending freedom as a B–17 pilot in World War II has made him an example for future generations of citizens.

This noble leader of the Dallas community personifies service to his country through the light of charity. As steadfast a patriot and compassionate a humanitarian as I have ever known, Ed Drake shines to those in his community as he does to his wife Donda and their family. I am proud to be his Representative in Congress.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased to see that this conference report has addressed the issue of concurrent receipt, I note with dismay that the provision as included in the report is inadequate. It will leave hundreds of thousands of veterans out in the cold, many of whom will likely not live long enough to benefit from this unacceptable pseudo-solution.

This provision will allow only those 20-year retiree combat-disabled veterans to receive concurrent receipt, which completely ignores that many if not most soldiers who are combat-disabled do not remain in the military for 20 years. Upon becoming disabled they are discharged from the military. This means that, according to some estimates, two-thirds of disabled veterans will be left behind by this provision. In this, the provision is a slap in the face of our veterans.

Additionally, the 10 year phase-in of concurrent receipt for the remaining who are at least 50 percent disabled effectively means that thousands of our veterans—particularly those of the World War II and Korea generations—will not live to receive this earned and deserved benefit.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make our veterans and our soldiers our top priority. We have entered into a contract with each of them. They have done their part and are doing their part every day—in conflicts across the globe including the increasingly deadly Iraq occupation. We must keep our end of the contract. I am sad to note that provisions like this watered-down concurrent receipt are not in keeping with our end of the contract.

I also must object to the procedure in bringing this conference report to the Floor. We were once again given only hours to read a conference report that ran hundreds and hundreds of pages. This is a disturbing pattern that seems to surface when we are required to vote on controversial legislation. Are Members not anymore supposed to at least review legislation before voting?

THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS FOR THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2003

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that, in accordance with the recommendation of the United States Judicial Conference, would authorize the creation of three additional judgeships for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, as well as convert a temporary judgeship into a permanent judgeship.

There is no question that these additional judgeships are needed. The average weighted caseload per judge in the Eastern District is 733, as compared to 649 a year ago, an increase of almost 12 percent. This is extremely significant, as the national average for weighted caseloads per judge is 524, and an average weighted caseload in excess of 430 is the United States Judicial Conference's standard for determining if additional permanent judgeships are required. The Eastern District's average weighted caseload of 733 exceeds this standard by 70 percent. In addition, the Eastern District's average weighted caseload surpasses the national average by more than 39 percent and has exceeded 430 since 1994.

In 2003, there was a significant increase in the total number of filings in the Eastern District; in fact, total filings in 2003 rose 11.7 percent to 5,523. Criminal case filings, for which our Constitution guarantees an individual the right to have a speedy trial, rose 12.7 percent. In addition, there are now a total of 6,343 cases pending before the Eastern District; an increase of 11.5 percent in 2003 and an 18.5 percent increase over the past five years.

● This ''bullet'' symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Moreover, as the temporary judgeship expired in February 2002, upon a permanent judge's decision to take senior status, this situation will be exacerbated because the President will be unable to appoint a replacement unless Congress acts to convert the temporary judgeship into a permanent judgeship before that time.

Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to work with me to enact this legislation and thereby improve the administration of our Nation's laws in the Eastern District of California.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDITH ZITTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judith Zitter, who is being honored by the Zonta Club of Pasadena as their 2003 Woman of Achievement. Each year, the Zonta Club of Pasadena pays special tribute to the accomplishments made by an extraordinary woman who has made a difference in our community.

A Pasadena native, Ms. Zitter received her Masters in Social Work from California State University, San Francisco in 1982. Judith is married to her Blair High School sweetheart, Neal Wrightson, who is the founder of the Children's Community School in Van Nuys. She and Neal have two children, Erica, a freshman at University of California, Santa Barbara and Max, a sophomore at the Los Angeles High School for the Arts.

Ms. Zitter's strong commitment to her community is clearly reflected in her career path. She has worked as an adoption social worker, director of a senior center, and a field representative for Pasadena Mayor Rick Cole. During her tenure with Mayor Cole, she was instrumental in implementing positive changes in the Old Pasadena and Northwest Pasadena neighborhoods. Currently, Judith is a community health manager for Kaiser Permanente. In this capacity, she has helped create relationships to support community organizations, such as the formation of a statewide partnership with free and community clinics in California, and the American Diabetes Association.

The consummate volunteer, Judith currently serves on the boards of El Centro de Accion Social, Day One, the Asian Pacific Community Fund and the Pasadena Center Operating Company. Her past volunteer efforts include Haven House, the Los Angeles Women's Foundation, Community Health Councils, Artists Beyond Disabilities, United Way, and numerous political organizations.

Judith has received many awards, including the Pasadena YWCA Second Century Award in 1998, the Outstanding Community Service Award from the American Diabetes Association in 2002, and the Kaiser Permanente Public Affairs Award in 2000 and 2003.

The time, energy and love Judith gives to our community is extraordinary, and the residents of my district have benefited greatly from her dedicated service. For her lifetime of service, I am proud to ask all Members to join with me in commending Judith Zitter upon receiving the 2003 Zonta Club of Pasadena's Woman of Achievement Award.

WELCOMING THE MOST REVEREND ANTHONY SABLAN APURON, OFM CAP, DD, METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF AGANA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2003

Mrs. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to welcome the Most Reverend Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap, DD, Metropolitan Archbishop of Agana to the People's House and to thank him for offering today's prayer.

Archbishop Apuron has served God and His people first as priest and now bishop for over 31 years. Born November 1, 1945, he was ordained a priest in the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin on August 26, 1972. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Agana by the late Archbishop Felixberto C. Flores on December 8, 1983 and consecrated Titular Bishop of Muzuca on February 19, 1984. On May 11, 1986, the Most Reverend Anthony S. Apuron was elevated to Metropolitan Archbishop of Agana.

As the head of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Agana, he is the spiritual leader for over 350,000 Roman Catholics in Guam, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa in the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Diocese of the Caroline and the Marshall Islands. He has been the moral voice for the faithful who look to him for direction in these difficult times. Under his leadership, the Archdiocese of Agana has expanded its ministries to meet the changing needs of the community.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I want to thank Archbishop Apuron for being with us today and for his leadership and guidance of the people of Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana. Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

HONORING ANDREA BAGLEY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who has ably served the House of Representatives and the citizens of Wisconsin for more than 20 years. In the offices of four Members of Congress, on both sides of the aisle, Andrea Bagley has worked diligently and compassionately to better the lives of our constituents.

Andrea first became a congressional caseworker in 1983, in the office of Representative Steve Gunderson, for whose father she had initially worked as a bookkeeper. In her first case, she helped a young person resolve a problem with a student loan. As a mother of three sons, Andy was already adept at solving problems and offering caring support.

When she began her congressional service, Andy handled roughly 500 cases a year, without benefit of fax machines or computers. It's hard for young staffers to even imagine a world of onion skins and carbon copies or the joy of an electric typewriter with memory. In 20 years, she's seen the technology grow with her caseload . . . to more than a thousand a year, yet she's handled them all with calm persistence. To every constituent with a problem she says, ''We can't guarantee you'll get the answer you want, but we guarantee you'll get fair consideration.'' Thanks to her, they have.

Andy describes her job as being part detective, part problem-solver, part researcher, and part social worker. For every case, she meticulously amasses bits of information, institutional knowledge, documentation, and paper trails to piece together solutions to problems as finely stitched as the elaborate quilts she makes for her dozens of fortunate friends and family.

The gratitude of our constituents is apparent—from the thanks Andy recently received from a man gaining citizenship, to the wedding photos of a bride whose family needed visas to attend the wedding, to the visits of grateful parents and the children they adopted from foreign lands.

Congressmen GUNDERSON, KLUG, and BARRETT join me in adding our words of gratitude to Andrea Bagley for her 20 years of honorable service to our offices and our constituents. Selfishly, I wish for many more.