

25, Supporting Awareness of Need for Youth Mentors. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 13 and 14.

REDUCE TAXES ON SENIOR CITIZENS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation to reduce taxes on senior citizens. The first bill, the Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act, repeals the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits. Repealing this increase on Social Security benefits is a good first step toward reducing the burden imposed by the federal government on senior citizens. However, imposing any tax on Social Security benefits is unfair and illogical. This is why I am also introducing the Senior Citizens' Tax Elimination Act, which repeals all taxes on Social Security benefits.

Since Social Security benefits are financed with tax dollars, taxing these benefits is yet another example of double taxation. Furthermore, "taxing" benefits paid by the government is merely an accounting trick, a shell game which allows members of Congress to reduce benefits by subterfuge. This allows Congress to continue using the Social Security trust fund as a means of financing other government programs, and masks the true size of the federal deficit.

Instead of imposing ridiculous taxes on senior citizens, Congress should ensure the integrity of the Social Security trust fund by ending the practice of using trust fund moneys for other programs. In order to accomplish this goal I introduced the Social Security Preservation Act (H.R. 219), which ensures that all money in the Social Security trust fund is spent solely on Social Security. At a time when Congress' inability to control spending is once again threatening the Social Security trust fund, the need for this legislation has never been greater. When the government taxes Americans to fund Social Security, it promises the American people that the money will be there for them when they retire. Congress has a moral obligation to keep that promise.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help free senior citizens from oppressive taxation by supporting my Senior Citizens' Tax Elimination Act and my Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act. I also urge my colleagues to ensure that moneys from the Social Security trust fund are used solely for Social Security benefits and not wasted on frivolous government programs.

JOEL KAMINER—MARINE, BUSINESSMAN, COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and

achievements of one Western North Carolina's finest people, Mr. Joel Kaminer.

Born in New York City on February 22, 1937, the son of the late Abraham and Betty Kaminer, Joel David Kaminer graduated from New York University in 1958 with a degree in Business. He worked as a salesman in New York City for several years and then entered the United States Marine Corps. He received his honorable discharge in 1964, having served as a member of the elite Presidential Honor Guard. A member of the Marine Corps traveling football squad, Joel played games in Okinawa and Tokyo in front of large crowds of servicemen.

After leaving the Marine Corps, he briefly lived in Dallas, Texas and then moved to Miami, Florida where he entered the securities and investment industry. He lived in Miami for the next twenty-five years. Joel became an active member of his community in Miami, serving on the executive board of the Leukemia Society of South Florida and coaching youth league football.

An avid golfer, Joel and his wife Margaret moved to live permanently in Cashiers, North Carolina in 1991 where he was an active supporter of the community, supporting community improvement plans and local charities. He became a member of Cedar Creek Racquet Club and the Country Club of Sapphire Valley. His move to the mountains rekindled an old interest in politics, which began when he was involved in the 1972 presidential campaign of George McGovern. He became actively involved in the Republican Party of Western North Carolina. He loved talking about politics and the future of America. He also enjoyed attending live sporting events and spending quiet moments at home with his family.

His wife, Margaret Hart Kempner and son, Michael Kaminer reside in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His daughter and son-in-law Tracy and Bill Kruckenberger live in Cashiers, North Carolina. He leaves three nieces, two nephews, two grand-nieces, and five grand-nephews, all of Florida.

Joel David Kaminer of Cashiers, North Carolina died Sunday, April 21, 2002. He is sorely missed by his family, his friends and his community.

A RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE CURRENT POLITICAL UNREST AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN VENEZUELA AND CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO HOLD NEW NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VENEZUELAN CONSTITUTION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning the current political unrest in Venezuela. I wish to express my strong concern about the direction of the government and its alienation of a large part of the citizenry.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to call also for new national elections in that country. Venezuela is an important member of the community of nations in this hemisphere. Venezuela is the world's fifth largest commercial supplier of oil

and the only Latin American member of the OPEC. Venezuela is the fourth largest supplier of oil to the United States.

The continued strike by workers in the petroleum industry in Venezuela has contributed to the rise in the price of crude oil on the world market, thereby affecting a major source of energy for the United States.

If the current political unrest and economic instability in Venezuela is not corrected, it could have further negative impact on the price of oil on the world markets.

This country, and indeed this region, which seemed to hold so much promise as a nation on the cusp of a new era, and was at long last emerging from a long dark period as a "military controlled ghetto," seems to be slipping once again into an era of "strong man" rule, and a state that embraces socialist dogma.

America must be more than an island of hope and beacon of opportunity in a region where there is low expectations, and so much unfulfilled potential. We must continue to show leadership in the region.

The Administration must follow through with vigorous support of the Summit of the Americas agenda and get on about the business of assisting all the countries in the region to develop their economies and strengthen their political institutions.

The House of Representatives must support our neighbors in this hemisphere and support them in the continuing struggle to become full democracies with strong economies.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and call on the leadership to act swiftly in bringing this to the floor for consideration.

TRIBUTE TO PENFIELD BOY'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Penfield boy's Soccer team for ending their 19-2-2 season as New York State Section V Class A Champions.

Last year the team won the school's first state championship, but had to share the title when the game ended in a tie. This year, the patriots rose to the top again, and won their first official title, the first Class A state title in 15 years.

This team truly deserves to end the season with such a rewarding finish. Years of hard work and dedication resulted in a season that will go down in school history, and will be remembered always. The players, coaching staff, and parents should be proud of this exciting accomplishment.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York I would like to congratulate the following players, coaches, and bench personnel for this achievement: Mike Annechino, Steve DeMaria, Brian Annechino, Mike Evans, Jason Maher, Feliks Kogan, Felix Liverman, Tom Doran, John Koestner, Adam Agresti, Guilherme Fonseca, Greg Herbert, Brian Usinger, Matt Malone, Dave Carr, Jamarr Miller, Eric Schomske, Tom Gordon, C.J. Pruner, Adam Benson, Dan Bergan, Ari Silbermann, Jaden Rocco, Mike Lentine, Matt Bader, Ryan Kota, Jon Farber, Matt Kavanaugh, Ryan Michaels, Kyle Zinter, Ed Silco, Varsity Coach

Jon Butterworth, Assistant Coach Dave Heise, Program Coach Tim Graves, Assistant Alissa Vanmulem, JV Coach John Cotsonas, Frosh Coach Al Pisano, and Trainer Jen Stantz.

HONORING PATTY MANDRELL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patty Mandrell, the outgoing President of the Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce. The Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce honored her at an Installation and Awards Banquet on January 18, 2003 in Chowchilla, California.

Born in Madera, California, Patty grew up in Dos Palos before becoming a resident of Chowchilla. Patty is very enthusiastic about writing, reading, and people, which makes her a key component in the community. Her interest in journalism led her to a part-time position at the Chowchilla News newspaper, where she later became Editor and is currently the Managing Editor.

Patty has been highly active in her community. She has served on the Central California Women's Facility/Valley State Prison for Women Citizen's Advisory and Drug Advisory Committees. Patty also sat as a Charter Board member for the Police Activities League. The honors that she has received vary from the Golden Apple Award in 1999, the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Fresno and Madera Counties Police Chiefs Association in 2000, and the Rotary Distinguished Public Service Award in 2002.

Patty and her husband of 34 years, Lyndon Mandrell, have two daughters Tricia and Stacy. To quote Patty, "God is my best friend; my Mom has always been my role model and I've never been ashamed of being my Daddy's girl."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Patty Mandrell as the outgoing President of the Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce and a true support of the Chowchilla community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Patty Mandrell many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD RAIL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a simple piece of legislation making 3 new changes to the way that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) reviews rail construction projects, particularly when in residential areas.

I am introducing this legislation following the frustration I have experienced dealing with the STB on a matter of great importance to thousands of my constituents' quality of life—the potential San Jacinto rail line in Southeast Harris County, Texas. The level of concern in the community, on many issues, and the outpouring of public opposition produced during

the STB's formal process has been tremendous.

Residents are concerned with increasing traffic delays and accidents in an area already experiencing too many problems with train traffic. Citizens are concerned about the safety of their children going to school, the potential for dangerous spills and accidents, localized noise and air pollution, and several other concerns. Amazingly, in their Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the STB concluded that the project will have a negligible impact on the surrounding community. I have spoken with hundreds of people about this project, and I can say that the STB is flat out wrong.

I do not believe that they ignore the public interest at the STB on purpose, but I believe that the agency and its decision-making process are biased against the concerns of residents who are facing rail construction in their neighborhoods. I am introducing this legislation to change the decision-making process so that it is more balanced in three ways.

First, if there is a high level of public opposition, the legislation requires that the concerns of residents and local officials be taken into greater consideration than in the past, especially when the rail construction proposal is in a residential area.

Secondly, the legislation requires that, before a final determination, the STB determine whether a proposal would have a disproportionate impact on either minority areas or economically disadvantaged areas. If so, the STB would be required to report to the public what alternatives to the disproportionate impact proposal were considered and why they were not chosen.

Finally, the legislation would require the STB to investigate the providing of false, potentially material information about the project. During the investigation, the entire decision process is put on hold, and if the STB found that the false information was intentionally provided the application is automatically denied.

I am not introducing a rifle shot bill directed at a project in my area, but instead this legislation is broad based and applicable across the country. I have learned from my experience that the STB's balance needs to be shifted back towards the affected community.

DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THURGOOD MARSHALL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, January 7 marks the first day of the 108th Congress. I am pleased and honored to be a Member of Congress and the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. I am also pleased and honored that earlier today the Thurgood Marshall Commemorative Stamp was dedicated.

The dedication and issuance of this stamp in honor of Justice Thurgood Marshall, serves to recognize this great man for his civil rights achievements as a lawyer and for reaching the pinnacle of the U.S. Justice system as the first African-American Supreme Court Justice. President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Justice Marshall to the Supreme Court where he served 23 years on the Supreme Court, retiring on June 27, 1991, at the age of 82.

Through his knowledge, advocacy and devotion to the cause of civil rights, Justice Marshall made a significant contribution to the battle fought in the United States courts to eradicate the legacy of slavery. I believe, however, that he should be revered most for his courage and independent judicial temperament—for breathing life into the text of the Constitution. He worked tirelessly to guarantee all Americans equality and liberty in their individual choices, especially on issues involving voting rights, housing and education. It is an honor to recognize a man whose career is a monument to the judiciary system and who has inspired so many to continue his quiet crusade.

Marshall was born and raised in the Congressional District I represent—Baltimore, Maryland—and actually lived in a home which is about eight blocks from where I now reside. We both attended Howard University and, more significantly, he was once turned away from the law school I attended and graduated—The University of Maryland School of Law. As such, I am especially proud to honor Thurgood Marshall, as I share a common path with this historic figure.

I believe Justice Marshall has had a significant impact on the events of the 20th Century. His efforts on behalf of African-Americans built a structure of individual rights that has become the cornerstone of protections for all Americans.

Prior to joining the Supreme Court, in 1954 Justice Marshall argued the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* before the Supreme Court, where racial segregation in public schools was declared unconstitutional. In fact he won 29 of the 32 cases he argued before the Supreme Court, including cases in which the Court declared unconstitutional: a Southern state's exclusion of African-American voters from primary elections (*Smith v. Allwright, 1944*); state judicial enforcement of racial "restrictive covenants" in housing (*Shelley v. Kraemer, 1948*); and "separate but equal" facilities for African-American professionals and graduate students in state universities (*Sweatt v. Painter* and *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents, both 1950*).

After his death, an article in the Washington Afro-American stated, "[w]e make movies about Malcolm X, we get a holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, but every day we live the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall."

Justice Marshall opened doors for all Americans and had a significant impact on the events of the 20th Century. Marshall was instrumental in supporting the rights of minorities and immigrants; limiting government intrusion in cases involving illegal search and seizure, double jeopardy, and the right to privacy; and in creating new protections under the law for women, children, prisoners, and the homeless.

His legacy has inspired Americans to name educational institutions, federal buildings, legal societies, libraries, and numerous academic achievement awards in his honor. And now a commemorative stamp in his honor. I know I join many in the Congress to say I am honored and privileged to be a part of history—the dedication of the Justice Thurgood Marshall Commemorative stamp.