

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEATH TAX REPEAL PERMANENCY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8, the Republican Estate Tax bill. This legislation is further evidence of Republican's chronic addiction to digging deeper into debt. At a time when we face a deficit of over \$400 billion, Republicans today chose to pass a bill that will cost Americans another \$290 billion—with the cost growing to nearly a trillion dollars after 10 years. This vote comes less than a month after the Majority supported a budget that will slash funding from education and from our firefighters, police, and veterans. This is a clear statement of the majority's priority which is to put corporations and the very rich ahead of our families and communities.

Another rarely discussed provision of the Republican bill is the repeal of "step-up in basis", which will result in an increase in capital gains taxes and additional compliance burdens for many estates. This means that more families, businesses and family farms will have an increased tax liability rather than receive any benefit from this repeal.

I support the Democratic alternative, the Certain and Immediate Estate Tax Relief Act, which would take effect next year and exempt 99.7 percent of families and businesses from this tax for a third of the cost of the Republican proposal. In fact, if this substitute is adopted, all but 71 Minnesota families, 11 North Dakota families, and 5 South Dakota families will be exempted from the estate tax.

Permanent repeal of the estate tax benefits only the very wealthiest in our society while endangering our long-term economic stability and the solvency of Social Security and Medicare. It is my hope that Congress and the Administration will end this reckless spending and return us to common-sense, responsible public policy that makes the health, education and safety of American families our top priority.

IN HONOR OF ASSEMBLYWOMAN
LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein for her exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment to worker issues. Assemblywoman Greenstein received the Hubert H.

Humphrey Friend of Labor Award, sponsored by the AFL-CIO, at the annual Labor Awards Breakfast on Sunday, April 17, 2005.

As a third-term Assemblywoman for the 14th legislative district, Assemblywoman Greenstein has proven herself to be an outstanding political leader. She currently serves as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, the Assistant Majority Leader of the Assembly, the Vice-Chair of the Assembly Federal Relations Committee, and as a member of the Budget Committee.

In the Assembly, she has strived to achieve positive policy changes, particularly in the areas of labor and the protection of personal freedoms and workers' rights. Assemblywoman Greenstein is the main sponsor of the Call Center Disclosure Bill and the author of New Jersey's anti-telemarketing law. She sponsored the bill-turned-law that added two union members to the State Health Benefits Commission. Throughout the years, she has consistently supported bills that would enact workers compensation reform and ensure the rights and well-being of New Jersey citizens.

Her past leadership endeavors include serving as Vice-President of the Mercer County School Boards Association and being elected to the Plainsboro Township Committee for six years. Currently, she is a board member of multiple community organizations, such as the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the Boy Scouts of America.

Besides her political career, Assemblywoman Greenstein has had an extensive law career working as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia, a Clinical Associate Professor at Seton Hall Law School, and a Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Criminal Justice in Trenton.

Assemblywoman Greenstein attended Vassar College, John Hopkins University, and the Georgetown University Law Center. She and her husband have one son and live in Plainsboro.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein for her dedicated commitment to serving her community, her extensive involvement in political affairs, and her tireless efforts to serve the people of New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN TODD ORR
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Todd Orr, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most pres-

tigious award of Eagle Scout. Steven received his Eagle Award on March 5, 2005 at an Eagle Court of Honor in Platte Woods, Missouri.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years, Steven has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle project, Steven designed and built a Prayer Path at Platte Woods United Methodist Church, where I might add, his Eagle Court of Honor was held. Steven's work on this project included designing, planning, and implementing the path construction on newly acquired church property. Steven cleared the path area, and installed rock and flagstones, as well as plant life. The project provides church members with a place to pray and reflect.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Todd Orr for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF AMANDA VERNOR, BALL ELE-
MENTARY TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Amanda Vernor, Ball Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Vernor holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Specialization in Reading from Southwest Texas State University. She is currently updating her credentials as a participant in the University of North Texas Master's program, where she is pursuing a degree in Information Sciences.

Amanda Vernor instructs her fourth grade class in a variety of subjects: reading, writing, math, and science. She is a relatively new teacher: she has three years of experience, all with the Seguin Independent School District. She is already making a difference for her students, however, helping to turn them into successful lifelong learners.

Ms. Vernor believes in challenging her students: she is known to say that "students will live up to your lowest expectation." She believes that what students need is guidance in planning a course of action to achieve their goals, and she aims to provide that for them.

Amanda Vernor is an exemplary teacher, and a blessing to the people of Seguin. She has an excellent career ahead of her, and I wish her the best of luck.

• 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.

DEFIBRILLATORS IN ALACHUA
COUNTY SCHOOLS**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance and effectiveness of defibrillators. Heart disease kills more than 250,000 Americans each year and many of these deaths result from sudden cardiac arrest, SCA. The most effective treatment for SCA is immediate defibrillation, in which thousands of lives are saved. Recognizing this years ago, I had the honor of working with the American Heart Association, AHA, in developing legislation addressing SCA. This cooperation led to the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act. Now, I am pleased to see that the AHA is donating to Alachua County, Florida, defibrillators to be placed in each public school in Alachua County. The move comes in light of two incidents earlier this school year, in which area high school students collapsed. In Florida, nearly 12,800 people suffer a cardiac arrest each year, and 95 percent of them die. AHA's goal is to increase the survival rate from 5 to 20 percent and I support and stand behind them in reaching this end.

TRIBUTE TO POPE BENEDICT XVI

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who embodies the values of strength and wisdom. Seventeen days after Pope John Paul II sadly succumbed to illnesses related to Parkinson's disease, the Catholic community and the world witnessed the ascension of a new leader, former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, to the papacy.

Today, I join millions of Catholics around the world in celebrating the election of Pope Benedict XVI and know that His Holiness will continue to lead our church with the integrity and compassion exhibited by the dearly departed Pope John Paul II.

Since 1981, Pope Benedict XVI has led the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith where his deep-seated religious beliefs played an enormous role in stabilizing the Catholic Church and community. He was a close confidant of Pope John Paul II and is known to all as a respected scholar and teacher of the Catholic faith.

For over 54 years, Pope Benedict XVI has dedicated himself to his God and his creed. He studied at St. Michael's seminary in Traunstein, Germany in the 1940s and believes intimately in church doctrine and the orthodoxy of Catholicism. As the first German pope since the 11th century, he will continue the legacy of advocating for peace, social justice, and the dignity of the human spirit.

Pope Benedict is a steadfast believer in religious freedom and respect among all people of this world. He has a vision of how the Catholic Church will shape our world and fu-

ture and will teach with humility and lead with grace.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Church for their decision to elect Pope Benedict XVI to this special and divine position. I am happy to have him as my spiritual leader and guide and hope that others will celebrate the new pope of the Catholic Church.

RECOGNIZING TRAVIS R. VOGEL
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Travis R. Vogel, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Travis received his Eagle Award on March 5, 2005 at an Eagle Court of Honor in Platte Woods, Missouri.

Travis has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Travis has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle project, Travis remodeled the walls of the VFW basement. Travis installed new window well frames, and installed new siding—which he also painted—on the exterior. His work on the interior included new drywall, patching existing wall surfaces, texturing and painting the walls, and adding a chair rail. The project provided the VFW with a nicer looking space, and the window framing in particular will help the VFW save on energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Travis R. Vogel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. STEPHEN
ADUBATO, SR. AND DR. STEPHEN
ADUBATO, JR., RECIPIENTS OF
THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND'S
"TREE OF LIFE" AWARD**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor representatives of two generations of an extraordinarily talented family from the great state of New Jersey, Mr. Stephen Adubato, Sr., and his son, Dr. Stephen Adubato, Jr. Both members of this truly remarkable father-and-son team are to be presented with the Tree of Life Award by the Jewish National Fund on June 1, 2005 in Livingston, New Jersey. The Adubatos, as well

as the former Governor, the very Honorable Thomas Kean, Sr. and his distinguished son, New Jersey State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr., have been chosen to receive this prestigious honor for compiling such exemplary records of public service. Past recipients have included such outstanding public servants as United States Senator JON CORZINE, Representative BILL PASCRELL, two former Governors of the State of New Jersey, and corporate leaders Ted Turner and Donald Trump.

Mr. Adubato, Sr., is the founder and Executive Director of the North Ward Center, Newark Business Training Institute, The Robert Treat Academy Charter School and Casa Israel. His life's work has demonstrated to the people of his native city, Newark, and the entire state of New Jersey, just what one dedicated, brilliant, and courageous man can accomplish to improve his community's educational, civic, and cultural life. Mr. Adubato, Sr., has also served as a teacher, supervisor, and counselor for the Newark Board of Education, an instructor and consultant at Rutgers University, a consultant to New Jersey's Chancellor of Higher Education, and Director of External Affairs at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Like his father, Dr. Stephen Adubato, Jr., has also compiled a distinguished career as a four-time Emmy Award-winning broadcaster, best-selling author and motivational speaker. In the mid-1980s, at the age of 26, he served as New Jersey's youngest state legislator. Since then, he has been seen on-air as an expert commentator for MSNBC, the FOX News Channel, WABC-TV, and WNET, the leading public television station in the Greater New York City metropolitan area. In 1995, Dr. Adubato started a company called "Stand and Deliver" that is geared to helping people become better communicators. In 1999, he founded "Stand and Deliver: Communication Tools for Tomorrow's Leaders," a non-profit program which provides many young people with the communications tools they need to become better citizens and to more effectively compete for and succeed in the growingly complex job market. He currently hosts two shows on public television, "Caucus New Jersey," an Emmy Award-winning public affairs television series and "Inside Trenton," an insightful and innovative news program that covers public affairs on a weekly basis.

Founded in 1901, the Jewish National Fund is one of the premier organizations in the world devoted to the welfare of the people and land of Israel. The Tree of Life Award is a humanitarian award that the Fund presents to individuals in appreciation of their outstanding community involvement, their dedication to the cause of American-Israeli friendship, and their devotion to peace and security. The award recognizes outstanding leaders for their achievements and innovations in industry, government and education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to New Jersey's civic life made by Mr. Stephen Adubato, Sr., and Dr. Stephen Adubato, Jr., and to acknowledge their lifetime of good works, as well as those of former Governor Thomas Kean, Sr., and State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr. Individuals such as these make me proud to be a New Jerseyan and proud to call these wonderful people my friends.