

My deepest condolences go to her two sons, Hal Jean and Mayor Lane Jean of Magnolia; her sister, Ann Reeves Eddy; and to her 4 grandchildren. Kathryn Reeves Jean will be greatly missed in Magnolia and throughout the state of Arkansas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX CODE TERMINATION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the "Tax Code Termination Act".

This bi-partisan legislation, which I introduced with my colleague COLLIN PETERSON of Minnesota, and 65 bi-partisan cosponsors, will accomplish two goals. It will abolish the Internal Revenue Code by December 31, 2010, and call on Congress to approve a new Federal tax system by July of the same year.

The fact is our current tax system has spiraled out of control. At a time when Americans devote a total of 7 billion hours each year to comply with the tax code, we need tax simplification. Today's tax code is unfair, discourages savings and investment, and is impossibly complex. The problem is Congress won't act on fundamental tax reform unless it is forced to do so. The Tax Code Termination Act will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform.

Once the Tax Code Termination Act becomes law, today's oppressive tax code would survive for only 4 more years, at which time it would expire and be replaced with a new tax code that will be determined by Congress, the President, and the American people. The Tax Code Termination Act will allow us, as a nation, to collectively decide what the new tax system should look like. Having a date-certain to end the current tax code will force the issue to the top of the national agenda, where it will remain until Congress and the President finish writing the new tax law.

The tax code is hopelessly broken and abolishing it is the necessary first step to debating, designing, and adopting a new tax system. Although many questions remain about the best way to reform our tax system, I am certain that if Congress is forced to address the issue we can create a tax code that is simpler, fairer, and better for our economy than the one we are forced to comply with today.

Whichever tax system is adopted, the key ingredients should be: a low rate for all Americans; tax relief for working people; protection of the rights of taxpayers and reduction in tax collection abuses; promotion of savings and investment; and encouragement of economic growth and job creation. Taxes may be unavoidable but they don't have to be unfair and overcomplicated.

Just like other programs that require reauthorization, the tax code must be reviewed to examine whether it is fulfilling its intended purpose and then Congress must make what changes are necessary.

America's future depends on overcoming the handicap of the current tax code. There is a widespread consensus that the current system is broken, and keeping it is not in America's best interest. I urge each of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

MR. BUSH, MEET WALTER JONES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I would like to place the following article written by eminent conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this fine op-ed, Mr. Buchanan makes reference to the recent efforts by my colleague and good friend, Rep. WALTER JONES, JR, to derail the march to war with Iran. I am very pleased to have been an original co-sponsor of the legislation referenced by Mr. Buchanan, H.J. Res. 14, which puts forth the very simple idea that if we are going to have a war with Iran we must follow the Constitution. The resolution clarifies the fact that the President shall consult with Congress, and receive specific authorization pursuant to law from Congress, prior to initiating any use of military force against Iran. I hope my colleagues will read this article closely and consider what Mr. Buchanan has written—and what Rep. JONES is trying to do.

JANUARY 16, 2007.

MR. BUSH, MEET WALTER JONES

(By Patrick J. Buchanan)

America is four years into a bloody debacle in Iraq not merely because Bush and Cheney marched us in, or simply because neocon propagandists lied about Saddam's nuclear program and WMD, and Iraqi ties to al-Qaeda, anthrax attacks, and 9/11.

We are there because a Democratic Senate voted to give Bush a blank check for war. Democrats in October 2002 wanted the war vote behind them so they could go home and campaign as pro-war patriots.

And because they did, 3,000 Americans are dead, 25,000 are wounded, perhaps 100,000 Iraqis have lost their lives, 1.6 million have fled, \$400 billion has been lost, and America stands on the precipice of the worst strategic defeat in her history.

Yet, Sens. Clinton, Biden, Kerry, and Edwards—all of whom voted to give Bush his blank check—are now competing to succeed him. And how do they justify what they did?

"If only we had known then what we know now," they plead, "we would never have voted for the war." They are thus confessing to dereliction in the highest duty the Founding Fathers gave Congress. They voted to cede to a president their power to take us to war.

Now they wash their hands of it all and say, "It's Bush's war!"

And now George Bush has another war in mind.

In his Jan. 11 address, Bush said that to defend the "territorial integrity" of Iraq, the United States must address "Iran and Syria."

"These two regimes are allowing terrorists and insurgents to use their territory to move in and out of Iraq. Iran is providing material support for attacks on American troops. We will disrupt the attacks on our forces. We will interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria. And we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq."

The city sat bolt upright. If Bush was talking about Iranian agents inside Iraq, he has no need of a second aircraft carrier in the Gulf, nor for those Patriot missiles he is sending to our allies.

But does Bush have the authority to take us to war against Iran?

On ABC last Sunday, National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, while denying Bush intends to attack Iran, nonetheless did not deny Bush had the authority to escalate the war—right into Iran.

George Stephanopoulos: "So you don't believe you have the authority to go into Iran?"

Stephen Hadley: "I didn't say that. That is another issue. Any time you have questions about crossing international borders, there are legal questions."

Any doubt how Attorney General Gonzales would come down on those "legal questions"? Any doubt how the Supreme Court would rule?

Biden sputters that should Bush attack Iran, a constitutional crisis would ensue.

I don't believe it. If tomorrow Bush took out Iran's nuclear facilities, would a Senate that lacks the courage to cut funds for an unpopular war really impeach him for denying a nuclear capability to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad? Bush's lawyers would make the same case Nixon made for the 1970 "incursion" into Cambodia—and even a Nixon-hating Democratic House did not dare to impeach him for that.

Bush's contempt for Congress is manifest and, frankly, justified.

Asked if Congress could stop him from surging 21,500 troops into Iraq, Bush on 60 Minutes brushed aside Congress as irrelevant.

"I fully understand [the Congress] could try to stop me from doing it. But I've made my decision. And we're going forward." Asked if he had sole authority "to put the troops in there no matter what the Congress wants to do," Bush replied, "In this situation I do, yeah."

Is Congress then impotent, if it does not want war on Iran?

Enter Rep. Walter Jones, Republican of North Carolina.

The day after Bush's threat to Iran, Jones introduced a Joint Resolution, "Concerning the Use of Military Force by the United States Against Iran." Under HJR 14, "Absent a national emergency created by attack by Iran, or a demonstrably imminent attack by Iran, upon the United States, its territories, possessions, or its armed forces, the President shall consult with Congress, and receive specific authorization pursuant to law from Congress, prior to initiating any use of force on Iran."

Jones' resolution further declares, "No provision of law enacted before the date of the enactment of this joint resolution shall be construed to authorize the use of military force by the United States against Iran."

If we are going to war on Iran, Jones is saying, we must follow the Constitution and Congress must authorize it.

If Biden, Kerry, Clinton, and Obama refuse to sign on to the Jones resolution, they will be silently conceding that Bush indeed does have the power to start a war on Iran. And America should pay no further attention to the Democrats' wailing about being misled on the Iraq war.

A TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE WILLIAMS BISHOP

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of my city's great leaders, Representative Louise Williams Bishop. Representative Bishop, who I am

proud to say represents me in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, is an accomplished legislator who was first elected in 1989. She has demonstrated leadership throughout her entire career. And her activism in cultural, ecclesiastical, civil rights, and political organizations has enriched the lives of every Philadelphian.

Madam Speaker, Louise Williams Bishop is much more than just a legislator. A true servant of God, she has evangelized in the pulpit, in the capitol, and over the airwaves. For four decades, her radio program, "The Louise Williams Show," has been the hallmark of gospel radio. Her excellence in broadcasting has earned her many accolades, including the title "The Queen of Gospel Radio." For so many Philadelphians, Reverend Bishop has been a blessing in their cars and in their living rooms. She has been a lifeline for thousands of shut ins who would otherwise miss their worship experience. Each of them feels that she is his or her personal friend and minister. And, in many ways she is.

Madam Speaker, today, Representative Bishop will host her 20th annual birthday celebration tribute to the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For all the time she has hosted this celebration, I have been proud to call her my representative, my advisor, and my friend. I know that all of my colleagues in the Congress join me in honoring her.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the passing of a great President and American, President Gerald R. Ford.

As I reflect upon the distinguished life and legacy of President Ford, the first things that come to mind are his honesty, integrity, and ability to make the tough decisions for a nation that was fiercely divided by war and recovering from a scandal at the highest level of government. He served with the best interest of America in mind, never losing sight of his faith, family, and his beloved roots in southwest Michigan.

President Ford was truly a Michigan original, and folks throughout our State saw an ordinary man become extraordinary; yet, he always remained our native son. His upbringing in Michigan molded the man that Gerry Ford became—growing up in an environment that encouraged him to pursue his vision of what America should and could be.

I have the great honor and privilege of representing some of the very same folks in southwest Michigan that President Ford did during his time in Congress.

All our hearts go out to Betty and the Ford children: Mike, Jack, Steve, and Susan during this difficult time.

His legacy continues to grow particularly as we see first hand the partisan divisions which divide our country and this Congress. President Ford was one that always put his country first and his party second.

President Ford was a remarkable man and an outstanding representative of the Wolverine

State. Our Nation was blessed to have such a compassionate and steadfast leader and he will forever remain in our memory.

Farewell to our President. Go Blue.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN METHAMPHETAMINE ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007.

Last year, Congress passed the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 as part of the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act. Included in the bill were provisions that authorized funding for three important grant programs—the COPS Hot Spots Program, the Drug-Endangered Children Program, and the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Program.

The Hot Spots Program specifically provides funding for a broad range of initiatives designed to assist State and local law enforcement in undertaking antimethamphetamine initiatives. The Drug-Endangered Children Grant Program provides comprehensive services to assist children who live in a home where meth has been used, manufactured, and sold. The Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Grant Program is designed to facilitate cooperation between the criminal justice, child welfare, and substance abuse systems in order to reduce the use of drugs by pregnant women and those with dependant children.

Unfortunately, tribal governments were unintentionally left out as possible applicants for the Hot Spots and Drug-Endangered Children Programs. The legislation I am introducing today seeks to rectify this by ensuring that, consistent with tribal sovereignty, tribes can apply for these grants, just as States can. Additionally, while tribes were included as eligible applicants for the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Grant Program, clarifying language is needed to ensure there is ample coordination with tribal service providers. This legislation works to achieve this coordination.

In 2005, the Drug Enforcement Administration and State and local law enforcement officials counted 12,484 Clandestine Laboratory Incidents in 48 States. In New Mexico alone, the State Department of Public Safety Narcotics Section handled over 400 cases involving meth in 2004. While this is disturbing enough, the situation can be worse in Native American communities. In studies of "past year methamphetamine use," Native communities have the highest use rates—more than double the use rate of other ethnicities. Additionally, when the Bureau of Indian Affairs surveyed tribes about law enforcement, more than 70 percent said that meth is the drug that poses the greatest threat to their reservation. It is evident that more needs to be done to stop the manufacturing and use of meth.

As a co-vice chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus and a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, I am uniquely aware of the

substantial obstacles our criminal justice, child welfare, and substance abuse systems face in the fight against meth. As such, I am pleased to introduce this legislation today and wish to thank original cosponsor Representative DALE KILDEE for his support. Mr. KILDEE has worked diligently on this matter and continues to be a strong advocate for all Native American issues. I urge my colleagues to join us in helping to give Native American communities the resources they need to combat this epidemic, by cosponsoring this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARIAN MONA CARMACK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute Johnson County Librarian Mona Carmack, who is retiring later this month, and will be honored on January 25, at the Overland Park Sheraton Hotel. Because of scheduled votes in Congress that evening, I will be unable to attend, but want to recognize her today. It is only fitting that the Library of Congress will contain a tribute to an outstanding librarian of our era.

Johnson County is the fastest growing county in Kansas. During her 18 years of exemplary professional service to our citizens, Mona oversaw the expansion of the library system with six new branches, and significant improvements at three others. The library system's holdings increased from nearly 565,000 to 1.5 million during her tenure, and the operating budget increased from \$5 million to \$21.6 million.

Most amazing of all, during that time, the circulation per capita increased from 6.1 to 16.4, and the percentage of the county's population registered as library users increased from 72 percent to 84 percent. Our county libraries are beautiful, airy, modern facilities, packed with excellent resources, and significantly contribute to the outstanding quality of life that Johnson Countians enjoy.

Mona and her staff have received numerous national library awards, including being named a Finalist in the Innovations in American Government competition in 1998, and culminating in a National Award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2005. Mona was honored by her peers with 2002 awards from the Kansas Library Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association.

Like any good librarian, the issue dearest to Mona's heart is literacy. Literacy is emphasized in children's programming, and the Library, in cooperation with the Johnson County Community College, operates an adult literacy program. Mona also serves on metropolitan literacy organizations, such as the Literacy Kansas City Board and the Metropolitan Alliance for Adult Learning.

After I took office in 1999, Mona was kind enough to give me a tour and briefing of the library. My office has often used the outstanding facilities of the Johnson County libraries to host community office hours with my constituents.

Madam Speaker, we all wish Mona the very best for the next chapter of her life, and hope that she will continue to contribute her leadership and knowledge to our area.