

agree that it is long past time to begin treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals, educators are underappreciated and underpaid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world.

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we continue to undervalue educators, it will become harder to attract, and keep, good people in the education profession. While educators' pay is primarily a local issue, Congress can, and should, help raise educators' take-home pay by reducing educators' taxes.

This is why I am introducing the Teachers Tax Cut Act. This legislation provides every teacher in America with a \$1,000 tax credit. I am also introducing the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act, which extends the \$1,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel involved in any aspect of the K-12 academic program.

The Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act increase the salaries of teachers and other education professionals without raising federal expenditures. By raising the take-home pay of professional educators, these bills encourage highly qualified people to enter, and remain in, education. These bills also let America's professional educators know that the American people and the Congress respect their work.

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.

#### FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ MIGUEL MARTÍNEZ HERNÁNDEZ

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Miguel Martínez Hernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Martínez Hernández has bravely, and peacefully, advocated for liberty and freedom in Cuba, a country that suffers under the nightmare of repression that is the Castro regime. He is an area representative for the 24 February Movement, named for both the commencement of the glorious Cuban War of Independence in 1895, and the day in 1996 when two civilian aircraft carrying four members of the Brothers to the Rescue organization were shot down over international waters by the Cuban dictatorship's fighter jets. The 24 February Movement desires, and struggles for, freedom in Cuba. Mr. Martínez Hernández also hosts an independent library in his home, in order to provide truth instead of the regime's propaganda.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Martínez Hernández has been harassed and detained on a number of occasions in connection with his pro-democracy activism. Amnesty International also reports that he was taken into custody and interrogated by the tyrant's thugs in June, 2001. Despite being constantly attacked by the despotic regime, Mr. Martínez Hernández continued his efforts to bring freedom to the Cuban people.

Unfortunately, in March 2003, as part of the heinous crackdown of peaceful, pro democracy activists, Mr. Martínez Hernández was arrested. Subsequently, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 13 years in the totalitarian gulag.

While confined in the deplorable gulag, it has been reported that Mr. Martínez Hernández has been threatened because he has persisted in studying the Bible. It is abhorrent to nature that this brave man languishes in an infernal gulag because he believes in freedom of religion, democracy, and basic human rights for the Cuban people.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush addressed those brave men and women who spread the light of freedom in the darkest corners of the world when he said in his inaugural address, just a few days ago, "Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country." My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of José Miguel Martínez Hernández and every political prisoner languishing in the dungeons of tyrants.

#### THANKING AMANDA CONLEY

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my thanks to Amanda Conley for her faithful and selfless dedication to our country.

On a daily basis, we are reminded of the tremendous costs that freedom often requires. Throughout the history of the United States of America, men, woman and families have given their all to further our constitutional hopes and dreams.

For 36 years, Amanda Conley has tirelessly supported the men of her family. Born on-base the daughter of a Navy Chaplain, Mrs. Conley grew up in the midst of great men and women that served and protected our Nation from enemies both foreign and domestic. Through three deployments to the Mediterranean and a year-long assignment to the jungles of Vietnam, as well as countless assignments to various destinations, Mrs. Conley endured what seemed like endless separation from her father.

As her father's service in the Navy came to an end, Mrs. Conley re-dedicated her support to the United States military by becoming a Navy wife. She endured the same sporadic deployments and nights alone as had marked her childhood, including a tour in the Persian Gulf and 6 years as a single mother while her husband Steve was assigned to recruiting duty.

Every day United States servicemen and women serve with fervency and zeal due in large part to the continued support of their spouses and loved ones. Troop morale stems from the loyal and endless efforts and sacrifices of their loved ones on the homefront, those who benefit from freedom each day because of what their husbands, wives, daughters and sons contribute through their service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, we are humbled by and appreciative to men and women like Mrs. Amanda Conley, who are willing to sacrifice and sup-

port those that they love to ensure the future of our great Nation.

To military spouses and families everywhere, thank you. We owe you a heartfelt debt of gratitude.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT TAX CUT ACT

#### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

I need not remind my colleagues that education is one of the top priorities of the American people. After all, many members of Congress have proposed education reforms and a great deal of time is spent debating these proposals. However, most of these proposals either expand federal control over education or engage in the pseudo-federalism of block grants. Many proposals that claim to increase local control over education actually extend federal power by holding schools "accountable" to federal bureaucrats and politicians. Of course, schools should be held accountable for their results, but they should be held accountable to parents and school boards not to federal officials. Therefore, I propose we move in a different direction and embrace true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over both the means and ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private, parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By

providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the educational opportunities and increase the quality of education for all children. Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, I was participating in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and, therefore, missed two recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote number 8 and yes on recorded vote number 9.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ALLAN J. MOLL

### HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a man who has done much for journalism, the legal profession, and good government in my home state of Utah. Allan J. Moll passed from this world on December 22nd of last year. He leaves the world a richer and better place for his influence and presence.

I remember as a teenager in Utah watching him on the Evening News on Channel Four. The experienced anchor had a unique delivery style I found fascinating. His art was honed by a lifetime of experience. He began his career in radio news at the age of 19. One of his first assignments in broadcasting was reporting the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor to radio listeners throughout the Intermountain West. He served his country during World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

In 1948, Mr. Moll inaugurated the first commercial television broadcast in Utah. In 1958, he moved to California as the news director at the RKO affiliate, KHJ Radio and Television before returning to Utah in 1968. Mr. Moll was the evening news anchor on KCPX TV in the late 1960's through the 1970's. He interviewed numerous influential Americans, including President Truman, President Kennedy, Senator Goldwater and many Hollywood stars. In 2001, the Utah Radio and Broadcast Association inducted him as "Broadcaster of the Year."

Allan Moll's accomplishments are not limited to the broadcast industry. He received a law

degree from the University of Utah Law School. After a stellar broadcast career, Mr. Moll spent 25 years in the Salt Lake County Attorney's office. For two decades he was the chief spokesman for Salt Lake County at the state legislature. Here is where our paths crossed. In my years in the Utah House of Representatives, I came to know Allan Moll as an articulate spokesman for Salt Lake County. He was also a consummate professional. I appreciated his accurate information, his respectful demeanor and personal considerations. I joined many of my colleagues who considered Allan Moll not just an effective lobbyist, but also a friend.

He enjoyed his work and I enjoyed his innate kindness. He retired in 1996. In 1997, the 29 member Utah State Senate illustrated their respect by passing a resolution recognizing Allan Moll as the "30th State Senator." He also received recognition awards from the Utah State Court Association and BYU Lawyer and Legislative Association.

Allan Moll had an interesting story to tell. When I was assigned as the teacher advisor to my high school's National Honor Society, the first person I invited to speak to these outstanding kids was Allan Moll. He kindly gave of his time to meet the students and regale them with stories of the "good old days" of television news. I was appreciative of his willingness to give of himself.

Mr. Moll was unsuccessful in his only bid for elective office, but those of us fortunate to have worked with him had only the utmost respect. I am proud to honor the memory of a great Utah public servant, Allan J. Moll.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SHIRLEY RODRIGUEZ REMENESKI

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the achievements of a remarkable individual, Shirley Rodriguez Remeneski. Shirley has been an inspiration and an energetic force in our community, working tirelessly over the past few decades to better the lives of New Yorkers.

Throughout the years, Shirley has acted as a passionate advocate for not only the people of New York, but also for the Hispanic community at large. She successfully worked her way through the local government getting her first taste of public policy advocacy in the Social Services Unit in the Bronx Borough President's Office, then moving on to work as the Executive Director of NYS Governor's Office for Hispanic Affairs, and then to her most recent appointment in 2002 as the Senior Vice President of the Empire State Development's Economic Revitalization Division. There is no doubt that Shirley has touched a significant number of lives along the way. In 1989 Shirley helped to lead relief efforts for the victims and survivors of Hurricane Hugo in Puerto Rico. Time and time again, she has selflessly given her talent and devotion to improve and enhance the quality of life for others.

The list of Shirley's accomplishments for our community is plentiful, and has led to her recognition as a champion for both the city's un-

dereserved populations and the Hispanic business community. She has received honors for her work by the Puerto Rican Bar Association, Verizon, the United Bronx Organization, Governor Pataki, the Girl Scouts, El Diario, the New York State Department of Correctional Services, the Hispanic Society of the New York/New Jersey Port Authority and Hispanic Magazine—and the list goes on.

This woman is a true leader, public servant, visionary, defender, mother and friend. Shirley—and the work she has done—is far more than one expects from the average citizen. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of Shirley Rodriguez Remeneski and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives in applauding her outstanding dedication to the residents of New York City and the Hispanic community throughout the years. We are all truly better off because of her devotion and commitment to us and our city.

#### EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE MEMBERS OF BRAVO BATTERY, FIRST BATTALION, 109TH FIELD ARTILLERY DIVISION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the 126 members of the Bravo Battery of the First Battalion of the 109th Field Artillery, based in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who are returning home this week after a year in Iraq.

Our brave soldiers have served their country valiantly and we welcome them home with the utmost gratitude for their selflessness. In this time of war, it is important that we realize the sacrifices our troops endure. Americans have a history of making the necessary sacrifices for fighting for the ideals in which we believe. Americans have consistently stepped up and taken the lead in ensuring democracy through voluntary military service.

The Bravo Battery consists of: Richard Osborne Adams, David Paul Anthony, Stephen John Arnold, Richard Anthony Aulicino, Joseph Baloh, Michael William Bauder, James Lee Bell, Joshua Michael Bohinski, Jason Otto Bolesta, Joshua Brandes, Dennis Michael Bressler, Travis C. Brigalia, Christian Benjamin Brown, Mark Earl Brown, Ronald Joseph Bruza, Jr., Kyle Edward Buff, Robert Anthony Burge, Kevin Thomas Burritt, Raymond Charles Cannell, Gary Bruce Caton, Jr., John Lawrence Cavanaugh, Richard Lloyd Chesnet, Jr., Gerald B. Cobb, Scott Elliott Cousins;

Ryan Hazen Craig, Christopher Alan Daniel, Scott Anthony Domanowski, Robert Patrick Donahue, Dean Emery Doty, Nicholas Andrew Dulina, William Sanderson Dutzar, Jason John Ellison, Eric Anthony Eppler, Eugene Joseph Everett, Rodney Stephen Fedorchak, Robert Allen Franks, Terrance Charles Frederick, James Joseph Gallagher, James Michael Gallagher, Patrick Edward Gallagher, Tomas Rafael Garcia, Mario Luis Gonzalez, Jr., Jeremy James Granahan, Nicholas Joseph Guzinski, Justin Matthew Harris, William Harris, Kelly Scott Harter, Kevin Patrick Hettler,