

The GLI is a shining example of current regulatory approaches. It gives maximum flexibility to the States. In 1986, the Governors of all eight Great Lakes States entered into discussions with the EPA. They literally sat at the table and drafted model regulations to raise our water quality standards. On March 13 of this year, the EPA accepted the Governors' suggestions and issued a final rule on the Great Lakes Initiative.

Any efforts to undo all of this hard work would be inconsistent with the long-term bipartisan effort to provide uniform water quality standards among Great Lakes States. It will say that those 9 years of negotiating and careful thought are merely voluntary guidelines.

Under the GLI, a specific numeric criteria has been set to protect aquatic life, wildlife, and human health in our region. The GLI sets limits on PCB's, dioxin, DDT, benzene, and chlordane just to name a few. It offers guidance yes, but guidance is useless unless it is implemented.

People in my State remember, and are suffering even today from PCB's. Mothers who ate a lot of fish from the lakes during pregnancy are seeing their infants developing at a slower rate than others. Higher rates of cancer have occurred in communities whose drinking water comes from the Great Lakes. Preliminary research indicates that PCB's and other pollutants may be linked with breast cancer in women. People want their water to be protected from toxins and pollutants.

All the GLI is trying to do is to ensure that every State in the region has the same water quality standards. It simply levels the playing field for all eight States. We don't want one state undercutting another and driving our standards to lower and lower levels. If we make it voluntary, we undercut the whole purpose of the GLI. We will start the downward spiral of pollution and toxic contamination of our lakes all over again. For those of us near Lake St. Clair, last summer we got a reminder of what that could be like. We don't want to go back.

We are talking about 95 percent of this Nation's fresh water. We are talking about lakes that provide 23 million people with their drinking water. We are talking about a multibillion dollar economic resource. We are talking about a national treasure.

The American people thought we reached a consensus—that we should protect our water. We have made progress. In the Great Lakes region, the GLI was an important part of that progress. Let's not turn back the clock. Let's move forward to make our water cleaner and safer. I urge my colleagues to support clean water and to support the GLI.

NAMING PS 165 THE EDITH
BERGTRAUM SCHOOL

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents in the Fifth Congressional District of New York and with the many friends of the Bergtraum family as they gather on May 19 to honor the memory of the renowned educator Edith K. Bergtraum, and to name Public School 165 in her memory.

Edith was both a personal friend and a dedicated member of the community. Her level of involvement and dedication created a yardstick by which all such activity can be measured.

A long-time activist in the Kew Gardens Hills and Flushing communities, Edith was a product of the New York City school system as well as a graduate of Hunter College of the City University of New York. Her sense of community brought her beyond the boundaries of her neighborhood; she quickly assumed leadership roles in the Kew Gardens Hills Jewish Center, the Queens County Democratic Committee, and the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Yet it was in the field of education that Edith had her most significant impact. She began her educational career when PS 165 opened and her son entered the first grade in a school that had 3,000 children but only 1,000 seats. With the support of her husband, Murry Bergtraum (a most powerful advocate for the schools children of New York City who would later become president of the City's Board of Education), Edith quickly and effectively joined the ongoing fight for the rights and education of children.

When Murry became the first president of the PS 165 Parents-Teachers Association, Edith assumed a seat on the executive board. Their joint efforts to alleviate the overcrowding in the school were successful, as three more elementary schools—PS 200, 201, and 219—were constructed nearby. When her children moved onto Junior High School 218 and Forest Hills High School, Edith followed, enriching these schools with the same dynamism that she brought to PS 165.

As her involvement grew, so did recognition of her capabilities. In 1974, Edith was elected to Community School Board 25, a position she held for 19 years. During this period, she was elected president of the local school board. She also somehow found the time to serve on citywide educational committees on special education, personnel and budget. In 1993, she was named the Queens borough representative on the search committee to select a new schools chancellor.

Mr. Speaker, as the people of Community School District 25 and those throughout New York City gather on May 19 to honor Edith K. Bergtraum, it is my hope that we will continue to be inspired and dedicated to the education of our children by following the most unique example she has set.

I call on all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in expressing our thanks and congratulations for Edith's good works to her family: her son, Howard Bergtraum, and daughter-in-law, Susan Bergtraum, and their children, Matthew, Jordan, and Andrea Bergtraum; Edith's daughter Judy Bergtraum; and Edith's daughter Marcia Bergtraum-Williams, and son-in-law, Dan Williams, and their children, Harel and Marc Williams; Edith's brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Bernice Bergtraum; and Edith's sister and brother-in-law, Nat and Janice Sommer.

With the dedication of the Edith Bergtraum School, we ensure that the people of New York will long remember a dynamic educator, a compassionate humanitarian, and a special friend.

ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE PENALTY FOR THE EXCLUSION OF GAIN ON THE SALE OF A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL OVER 55

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced legislation to correct an inequity in our current tax system. Under current law, an individual over the age of 55 is allowed a one-time exclusion of capital gain on the sale of a principal residence. This one-time exclusion invokes a marriage penalty. This legislation would eliminate the marriage penalty for the one-time exclusion of gain on the sale of a principal residence.

For example, two individuals over the age of 55 who decide to marry and sell their homes would only receive an exclusion of \$125,000. Whereas, if they did not marry and sold their homes they each would be able to receive an exclusion for \$125,000. This legislation addresses this problem. The legislation eliminates the marriage penalty by disregarding elections made before the date of marriage or elections made on homes sold after the date of marriage, but purchased before the marriage.

Fairness is an important element of tax policy. The current policy on the one-time exclusion assists individuals who are approaching retirement and it is a valuable exclusion. Our Tax Code should be fair and not discriminate against basic values such as marriage. The decision to marry should not be based on financial reasons.

I urge you to correct this inequity and support this legislation.

5715 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN
ONE ROOM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues news of a special gathering that will take place on Thursday, May 18, in Castro Valley, CA. Over 50 senior citizens, each over 100 years old, will join together at Eden Medical Center for the sixth annual 100+ celebration. As best I can calculate it, 5715 years of experience and memories will be shared by 56 people at this unique gathering.

Every one of us has looked to an elder, perhaps a grandparent or great-grandparent, at different times during our lives for the wise counsel that only experience can provide. Their wit and wisdom speak of lessons learned; their knowing smiles are a reflection on decades of experience. I know my own mother, who is just 86 years old, has taught this incorrigible son an encyclopedia of lessons!

While I cannot be there on Thursday, I want to join Eden Hospital in honoring our local centenarians. The most senior of these senior citizens are 106, including Vera Sherman and Anna Simons. There are also five 105 year-