

his father's bank. During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy and then returned to Mabank, where he purchased Tri-County Ford and raised cattle.

During the following years and until his death, he was a prosperous businessman who also devoted much of his time and energy to his community. He was active in virtually every civic activity in the region. He served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mabank Industrial Foundation, and Cedar Creek Hospital Board; member of the Mabank Independent School District Board of Trustees and the Trinity River Improvement Association; chairman of the board of Elm Grove Methodist Church and Elm Grove Cemetery Committee; president of Mabank Roping and Riding Club and organizer and president of the Cedar Creek Country Club and was a Mason with Roddy Blue Lodge. In 1977 he was named Citizen of the Year by Henderson, Kaufman, and Van Zandt counties in recognition of his extraordinary contributions.

Andrew also was an ardent supporter of higher education in the area. In 1970 he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Henderson County Junior College, now Trinity Valley Community College. During his 20-year tenure and as board president, he saw enrollment grow from 1,000 to almost 5,000 students and the college expand from the Athens campus to Palestine, Terrell, and Kaufman campuses. On April 6, 1995, the Andrew Gibbs Academic Building was dedicated—a fitting tribute to his leadership, dedication, and countless hours of service on behalf of the college.

Andrew is survived by his wife, Alene; daughters, Andrea and Bettie, sons-in-law, and grandchildren, plus numerous friends and associates. He also leaves behind a powerful legacy of public service—a legacy of generosity and dedication to his family and his community. As the local newspaper, *The Monitor*, stated, "Men of his stature are often referred to as 'pillars of the community.' Andrew Gibbs was more than that, he was the foundation."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay a final tribute to this outstanding American and my good friend, Andrew Gibbs, whose life was an inspiration to all those who knew him and whose memory will survive for future generations.

IN HONOR OF DAISY VONDRAK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fine resident of the Third Congressional District who passed away on Sunday, December 17, 1996. Mrs. Daisy Vondrak, 80, a resident of the Chicago Lawn neighborhood, died on Sunday in the Brentwood Nursing Center in Burbank, IL.

Mrs. Daisy Vondrak was the cofounder of Vondrak Publications. For almost 40 years, she coowned and operated with her husband, Edward, the *Southwest News Herald* and four other local community newspapers. Mrs. Vondrak handled the bookkeeping and finances of the newspaper, while her husband was in charge of the editorial operation. She watched the books closely; her attention to detail and strong work ethic pulled both the cou-

ple and the newspaper through many tough times.

During the Depression, Mrs. Vondrak and her husband purchased a small paper, the *Gage Park Herald*, that primarily provided neighborhood news to servicemen away from home. Deciding to broaden their publishing efforts in 1946, they attempted to purchase the *Southwest News*. Her husband was then an editor for the *Life* newspapers. They had to borrow all they could from friends and relatives and neighbors. It was a big chance for two young adults to take but they did it. Mr. and Mrs. Vondrak started out with just the two of them and ended up with 52 employees. The Vondraks retired in 1987 and initiated a humorous publication, the *Chuckle Town Times*.

The weekly newspapers the Vondraks copublished covered such southwest side communities as Chicago Lawn, Gage Park, Clearing, and Marquette Manor and the suburbs of Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Justice, Bridgeview, and Hickory Hills. The newspapers provide both national and neighborhood news to their subscribers. By faithfully watching the books and taking care of business, Mrs. Vondrak guaranteed that her neighbors would know what was going on around them in the community, the Nation, and the world. She provided a wonderful community service and will be sorely missed.

I first met Mrs. Vondrak in 1959, when I worked as the physical education instructor at Marquette Park. Every Monday night, I would submit stories to her or her husband Ed about activities at the park that would appear in the Thursday edition of the *Southwest News Herald*. I knew her personally and saw each week how dedicated she was to keeping the local publications up and running.

Mrs. Vondrak is survived by her two sons, James and Edward, a sister, a brother, and six grandchildren. I would like my colleagues to join me in offering sincere condolences to Mrs. Daisy Vondrak's family. She was a hard worker and strong businesswoman who will be missed by the entire community.

TAX RELIEF AND THE RIGHT TO WORK FOR OLDER AMERICANS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1995, which ends the practice of punishing older Americans who want to work.

Earlier this year, I promised the one million working, older Americans financial relief from the punitive Social Security earnings limit which is wrongly imposed on them. H.R. 2684, fulfills my promise by increasing the earnings limit to \$30,000 by the year 2002. Today, many people across the Nation want or need to work beyond the age of 64 because a fixed Social Security income alone cannot provide adequate financial resources.

This Nation has a tremendous amount of talent available in its older Americans. Younger people in the workplace gain a lot through the experience of these individuals who continue to work. Simply put, lifting the earnings

limit is the right thing to do because it is good for all of us.

When fully phased in, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act will exempt about 50 percent of the people who currently have to comply with the earnings limit. These individuals have worked hard to pay into the Social Security trust fund. This legislation keeps our promise to lift the earnings limit for older people so they can continue to contribute to our Nation.

ENFORCING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT AND PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND AND OTHER FEDERAL TRUST FUNDS

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 1995

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, article I, section 8 of the Constitution clearly states that it is the Congress who has the power "to borrow money on the credit of the United States," not the President or the executive branch. The problem that continues to trigger increases in the debt limit is the failure to balance the Federal budget. Balancing the budget is the first step in paying off the ever-mounting debts that have accumulated for future generations.

Passing the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 could be the best gift we ever give our children but this cannot be done without the President's help. We offered the President a balanced budget which included a raised debt ceiling but the President vetoed it.

Instead of negotiating a balanced budget plan, the President permitted the Treasury to raid two Federal trust funds—taking a total of \$61.3 billion from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund and the Federal Employees Thrift Savings Fund [G-fund]. By shifting these funds, the President bought more time to allow the Government to skirt the debt limit and avoid a default.

While no one wants a default, disinvesting retirement funds to free up room under the debt ceiling circumvents the debt limit as well as Congress' role in authorizing Federal borrowing. Moreover it allows the administration to avoid having to change its spending habits—a change which the American people have demanded.

The administration says that those funds will be repaid with interest but that interest is going to have to come from somewhere. Every dollar the administration removes from the trust funds can then be spent by issuing new debt to the public. Again, we are left with another Government bill with more interest payments at taxpayers' expense.

To better envision the significance of the debt limit and balancing the budget, I like to use the analogy of a credit care limit. When one has spent one's maximum spending/credit limit, one cannot keep on spending. Instead, one must take steps to balance his or her budget so that the output does not exceed the input. In other words they must change their spending habits.

Living within one's means is the financial reality that individual Americans confront every day. People cannot simply keep calling the credit card company asking it to raise their

credit limit. That is essentially what the administration wants this Congress to do. It wants Congress to raise its credit limit or the debt ceiling without any strategy for paying off its debt.

Balancing the budget is a step in the right direction; it diminishes the continuing need for having the debt or borrowing level raised. The Federal debt or credit card bill is now about \$5 trillion, and that does not include the interest. The fiscal year 1996 budget estimates that the U.S. Government will spend about \$256 billion in 1996, or about 16 percent of the budget, just to pay the interest on this debt.

H.R. 2621 is a bill to enforce the public debt limit and to protect the Social Security and other Federal trust funds. It ends the debt-ceiling smoke and mirrors. With the \$21 billion in the G-fund, \$365 billion in the Social Security Retirement Fund, \$143 billion in the Medicare Trust Fund, and \$483 billion in the Social Security Trust Fund, there is money for the administration to disinvest and build up more and more debt with more and more interest payments thereby sidestepping the Constitution. This bill ensures what the Constitution says about the authority to issue debt—Congress is vested with the "Power . . . To borrow Money on the Credit of the United States."

The reason we are having this current confrontation in Washington is not simply over how the Government keeps its books, or when we reach a balanced budget. The true confrontation is changing the way Government operates. We are in the midst of a revolution as dramatic as Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and its expansion of Government into every aspect of our lives. The question is whether we will have more Governmental control over our lives, higher taxes, more borrowing, and more interest payments, or whether we will go back to what made this country great—a frugal Government and individual responsibility. I agree with the views Thomas Jefferson expressed in his letter to Elbridge Gerry nearly 200 years ago—"I am for a government rigorously frugal and simple, applying all the possible savings of the public revenue to the discharge of the national debt; and not for a multiplication of officers and salaries merely to make partisans, and for increasing, by every device, the public debt, on the principle of its being a public blessing."

H.R. 2621 not only protects our retirement funds from senseless and expensive manipulation, it sends the President a clear message that the American public and this Congress is serious about balancing the budget.

DEDICATED, PROFESSIONAL, AND
CARING

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the greatest need that all of us have throughout our lives is for food. And contrary to some accepted myths, it doesn't just magically appear on the grocery store shelves overnight. Food gets from farm to table through the professional and skillful efforts of many people who have spent their careers in agribusiness. Ronald W. Stebbins is one of these committed professionals who after having been involved in agri-

business for the past 40 years is about to retire.

Born and raised on a dairy and potato farm in Kalkaska County, MI, and having attended Michigan State University, over his career Ron Stebbins has worked for private industry, for cooperatives, and for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He has worked throughout Michigan, and has developed a very impressive international marketing capability. He is well respected as a leader in agribusiness, and has served as an officer of several different professional agricultural associations, including the Michigan Bean Shippers Association, the Michigan Grain and Agri-Dealers Association, St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives, the Bank of Alma, and Valley Marketing, Inc.

In his capacity as president, secretary, and treasurer of the Michigan Agri-Business Association, Ron has helped to increase the professionalism and capability of Michigan's men and women in agribusiness. Educational events, informative meetings, legislative activities, insurance and other services have all been provided by this association, and Ron Stebbins has helped develop and improve many of these efforts.

Ron is very well known to many farmers in Michigan agriculture. Certainly his work as a grain trader has brought him in contact with many farmers, as did his work as supervisor for USDA's grain storage program many farm bills ago. His work over the years specifically with dry beans has made him a world leader in one of the most vital commodities for the economic well-being of our area's agriculture. His work with advisory committees has helped him to maintain a close eye on the moods and needs of our producers. Many farmers and traders alike know that when they speak with Rob Stebbins, they are getting an informed and dependable assessment on important agribusiness conditions.

This gentleman has also maintained significant involvement with his community over the years, including his service as a member of several area groups in Ithaca and Gratiot County, as well as having served as a councilman for the city of Ithaca and a director of the Gratiot County Hospital Board. Together with his wife of 38 years, Mary Kay, his three children and five grandchildren, Ron continues to offer the kind of role model that all of our children should see. Commitment to family, dedication to professionalism, concern about his community, all of these factors of which Ron can be proud, and examples for the rest of us.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of 40 years of devoted expertise and consistent professionalism, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Ron and his family the very best on his retirement.

IN MEMORY OF TOBY FARMER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during this holiday season our thoughts naturally turn to children—our own children and grandchildren, children of our friends, children in our community, children in need. I would like to tell my colleagues about a special child, Andrew Michael "Toby" Farmer, a child who died of cancer on December 2.

Words are inadequate to convey our sense of grief and compassion in the loss of a child. Andrew was 10 years old, the son of David and Janet Farmer of Stafford County and brother to Allison Marie Farmer. He was a fifth-grade student at Garrisonville Elementary School. And he was a fighter. His mother wrote to me, "Andrew had a tough time, but he never, ever complained. He was and is the strongest person I have ever known."

Such courage in the face of death—particularly such courage in a young boy—humbles and saddens us, Mr. Speaker, but also should inspire us to work harder to find the elusive cure for a disease that prematurely ends too many lives each year. We must be sure that programs vital to biomedical research are protected and strengthened where needed. One of those programs, Mr. Speaker, is the international space station, and I commend this body for supporting funding of the space station earlier this year. The weightless environment of the space station has enormous potential for medical research—research that could lead to cures or better treatments for cancer and other diseases—and I urge my colleagues to continue support for such programs in the years to come.

Our hearts go out to Andrew's parents, sister, grandparents, and his many friends, and I ask my colleagues also to join me today in paying our last respects to this brave young man. Andrew "Toby" Farmer lived the remaining days of what should have been the normal life of a 10-year-old boy by displaying extraordinary strength and courage. Mr. Speaker, he is an inspiration to all those who knew him and loved him—and he will be missed.

BRINGING THE TERRORISM BILL
TO THE FLOOR

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Republican leadership reversed itself again on the terrorism bill. Repeatedly, the leadership had promised to bring this legislation to the floor. First they said they would do it by Memorial Day. Then they said it would come up before August recess. Finally, they pledged a vote by the end of the year.

Yesterday afternoon, however, the bill was abruptly yanked from this week's floor schedule.

Yesterday, I also received a letter from Ms. Victoria Cummock of Coral Gables, FL. Ms. Cummock's husband was killed 7 years ago when Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland. As a victim of this random, senseless terrorist attack, she had dearly hoped that the House would finally move toward passage of the terrorism bill. Once again, her hopes have been dashed by the leadership's pandering to the far right.

I would like to enter Ms. Cummock's statement in the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, to demonstrate to all of my colleagues how important this legislation really is. I share her hope that Congress will move urgently to pass the anti-terrorism bill right away, rather than waiting for another tragedy to spur action.

I ask unanimous consent that her letter appear directly following these remarks: