

that a 13-year-old girl had fallen into the dangerous Richmond Creek and needed immediate assistance. Mr. Raper ran 200 yards to the creek and instinctively jumped into the freezing water to help the young girl. Risking his own safety, he quickly secured her to a large concrete structure in the middle of the creek until firefighters were able to throw them a rope. Mr. Raper calmed the young girl and led her to the shore.

The doctor who treated Ms. Andrews said the freezing temperatures of the creek water could have been detrimental to the 13-year-old girl if she hadn't been pulled to safety so quickly.

This story did not have a terrible ending because a man like Ronnie Raper was there and was willing to put the safety of another person above his own. He is not only an excellent public servant through his work as the Chairman of the Rhea County Commission; Mr. Raper is good neighbor and a heroic man.

I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. Ronnie Raper for this brave act.

EXPRESSING HIS SALUTATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANN S. FREED, 77TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND, CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Ann S. Freed, 77th Regional Support Command, Chief of Public Affairs, on her retirement this week after 28 years of active duty service.

Lieutenant Colonel Freed has been exemplary in her field. She is an award-winning public relations professional with 28 years of experience in public and internal communications including public affairs support for military exercises, operations, and events. She has run media relations campaigns at home and overseas; directed the Combined and Joint Information Bureau in the Philippines in 2000 and 2001 during the overthrow of President Estrada and the return of the U.S. military to the Philippines, handled media relations for the 77th Regional Support Command during Desert Shield/Desert Storm to include planning and execution of the reserve participation in the NYC "Welcome Home" parade down the canyon of heroes. During the post-9/11 era, Lieutenant Colonel Freed published the award winning 77th RSC Liberty Torch magazine for the soldiers of the 77th, handled media relations for New York and New Jersey Army Reservists during their mobilization and deployment in support of the Global War on Terror (GWT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Most recently, Lieutenant Colonel Freed has run public affairs operations for the 12,000 soldier 77th Regional Support Command. She has conducted media relations, produced the command magazine, and developed community relations projects. Lieutenant Colonel Freed has worked hard to ensure that the New York and New Jersey publics are aware of the legacy, and continuing contribution of the 77th to America's Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Freed has received numerous awards including the Meritorious Service Medal with third Oak Leaf Cluster for outstanding achievement in Public Affairs, the Department of the Army Keith L. Ware journalism award for the World Trade Center Memorial Issue of the Liberty Torch. She has also received six awards for excellence in broadcast or print journalism from First U.S. Army, Second U.S. Army, Forces Command, and Department of the Army.

I wish Lieutenant Colonel Freed all the best in this new stage of life, and continued health and success for many years to come.

JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce the Jobs Protection Act of 2003, legislation which will respond to a recent World Trade Organization ruling that held that our export-related tax benefit, the FSC/ETI provision in our tax code, violates our trade agreements. It is my distinct pleasure to be joined in this effort by my good friends CHARLES RANGEL and DON MANZULLO.

This legislation achieves two goals: it brings the United States into compliance with the WTO, and it keeps the playing field level for our manufacturers, which will keep jobs here. I'd like to address each of those issues.

As Chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, I have a strong interest in preserving and promoting free trade throughout the world. Trade is fundamental to our relations with other nations, and free trade has been the greatest civilizing force throughout modern history. I have fought ardently for many years to ensure that the United States, which is the largest exporter in the world, maintains its rightful role as world leader when it comes to trade.

Like my colleagues who have joined me in introducing this legislation, I believe that we must comply with our international agreements. To do otherwise could precipitate a trade war, which would be an unacceptable result. Therefore, this legislation repeals FSC/ETI and brings the United States into compliance with our WTO obligations.

The issue, then, is how to best replace FSC/ETI. In recognition of the fact that the repeal of FSC/ETI raises the tax burden of current beneficiaries by at least \$50 billion over ten years, this legislation returns that money to the U.S. manufacturers. In order to understand why that is so crucial to protecting our job base, it is important to understand why the FSC/ETI benefit exists in the first place.

U.S. corporations that export manufactured goods pay a 35 percent corporate tax rate on their profits. In addition, the corporation pays an additional value added tax when they sell its products in Europe. However, European manufacturers get a portion of their VAT rebated. FSC/ETI compensates manufacturers for this double taxation, thus leveling the playing field between U.S. and European manufacturers. That means jobs stay here. Were this benefit to be repealed with no replacement, U.S. jobs and wealth would be artificially transferred to Europe. This is another unacceptable result.

Therefore, the Job Protection Act of 2003 provides a permanent new deduction, which is an effective rate reduction for U.S. manufacturers, that is consistent with our trade agreements. It is structured in such a manner as to preserve and strengthen U.S. jobs. Surely, Mr. Speaker, that is a goal we should all support!

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be clear as to the process we should follow as we debate how best to replace FSC/ETI. We have faced challenges to export-related benefits in years past. As in the past, it is my fervent belief that our common goal must be to protect the interests of the United States, not our foreign competitors. While I expect a great deal of vigorous debate as we seek to comply with our WTO obligations, I remain hopeful that we will resolve any differences in a dignified manner, not giving our opponents the benefit of a public spectacle.

A summary of the provisions of the legislation follows.

THE JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 2003—STRENGTHENING U.S. MANUFACTURING AND ADDRESSING THE WTO CHALLENGE TO FSC/ETI (APRIL 2003)

REPEAL OF FSC/ETI

The Job Protection Act of 2003 (the "proposal") would repeal the current-law FSC/ETI benefit effective for transactions after the date of enactment.

Transition relief: The proposal would provide two types of transition relief—

(1) Binding Contracts: The proposal would not affect transactions pursuant to binding contracts in effect on the date of introduction of the legislation. This provision ensures that pre-existing arrangements of U.S. taxpayers are not retroactively penalized merely because of the WTO ruling.

(2) General Transition Relief: The proposal also would provide general transition relief based on the company's average FSC/ETI benefit during 2001. A company would receive a deduction for 100 percent of its base period amount (indexed for inflation) for 2004 and 2005, 75 percent for 2006 and 2007, and 50 percent for 2008 (no general transition relief thereafter). A permanent benefit for production activities in the U.S., described below, would begin to phase-in as the general transition relief phases out. The general transition relief is not contingent upon future exports and, therefore, is WTO compliant.

PERMANENT BENEFIT FOR MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES IN U.S.

Strengthening U.S. Manufacturing: The proposal would provide a permanent new deduction which reduces the effective corporate tax rate that would apply to so much of the company's taxable income as is attributable to "U.S. production activities". U.S. production activities would be defined as the manufacture, production, growth, or extraction of property eligible for the current FSC/ETI benefit whether or not actually exported.

Calculating U.S. Production: The portion of the taxable income attributable to U.S. production activities would be calculated by computing total gross receipts from sale, rental or license of eligible property produced in whole or part by the taxpayer in the United States, and then subtracting from those gross receipts inventory costs, directly allocable deductions, and a pro rata portion of other deductions. Allocation would be done in a manner similar to the method used in allocating deductions between U.S. and foreign source income.

Corporate Tax Rate Reduction: For companies with 100 percent domestic production, the effective rate reduction would be 3½ points (35 percent corporate tax rate reduced

to 31½ percent) once fully phased-in. Other companies would receive a sliding-scale effective rate reduction based on the value of their U.S. production of eligible products compared to the value of their worldwide production.

REVENUE NEUTRAL

The bill has been structured to be roughly revenue neutral year-by-year and over the 10-year budget period. The proposal does not include any extraneous revenue offsets.

THE OAK TREE BILL

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today, as the Commonwealth of Virginia celebrates its Arbor Day, to introduce legislation to recognize the people's selection of the oak tree as America's national tree. Selected by the American people during a 4-month-long open voting process sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the oak tree earned the title of America's Chosen National Tree. To recognize this distinction, I am proud to introduce legislation today that officially establishes the oak tree as America's national tree.

As a member of Congress representing a heavily forested district in Virginia, I know firsthand how trees add to our quality of life. As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I appreciate how trees and forests enhance the environment, add recreational opportunities and provide for the livelihoods of millions of individuals in the forest industry. Whether enjoying a product generated from a forest, or the simple satisfaction of lying under a shaded giant, trees contribute to all Americans.

The strong and stately oak tree is of particular importance in America's history and culture. Not only is this majestic tree an aesthetic beauty that characterizes the landscape of much of our great Nation, it also provides us with wood products in our homes, our offices and our places of gathering. Common to all 50 states, the oak has played a huge role in America's history as a valuable resource. It helped our founding fathers establish a new Nation, supplying building materials for the ever-expanding 13 original colonies. It served as a familiar sight to pioneers as they forged across the new republic to the west coast. And to this day it has remained an enduring, valuable, and highly prized raw material from which beautifully crafted furniture, sturdy door and window framing, ornate flooring and paneling, and the like, are made. This enduring and mighty tree, which has long been a part of our national heritage and strength, fully merits the distinction of America's National tree.

The oak tree has also played a key role in many specific historic moments in our Nation's history. Abraham Lincoln found his way across a river near Homer, IL, using the Salt River Ford Oak as a marker. The Richards White Oak in Cecil County, MD once served as a landmark on a 1681 map used by William Penn. Andrew Jackson took shelter under Louisiana's Sunnybrook Oaks on his way to the Battle of New Orleans. And "old iron-sides," the USS *Constitution*, earned its nickname from the strength of its live oak hull, famous for easily repelling British cannonballs.

Chosen by the people in a broad-based election, the oak tree represents the true characteristics of this great Nation: strength, beauty and endurance. Please join me in making official what we have known for many years—that the oak tree is America's national tree.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, it is ironic that we are voting on this resolution today when not one of the working people or business leaders visiting my office recently has asked me to support this budget or its tax cuts. Rather, they want the Federal Government to pass a budget that will help jump start the economy and improve our communities in Oregon and across the country by investing in transportation infrastructure, environmental cleanup, "hometown" security, education, and health care.

The concerns I voiced last month regarding the budget resolution remain valid and unaddressed in this conference report. It sets the stage for the largest budget deficit in our history and without even taking into consideration our significant financial commitment to rebuild and stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan. As our economy remains stagnant, this budget provides little help for our states, which are struggling to balance their budgets among decreasing revenues, higher Medicaid costs, and colossal homeland security demands.

Our Nation's cities are paying an estimated \$70 million per week on additional homeland security as a result of the war and high terrorism threat alerts. Instead of helping our communities with these costs, the proposed elimination of the dividend tax would reduce Oregon's 2003 revenue by \$91 billion, contributing to Oregon's current budget gap of \$1.3 billion. I oppose this budget which sacrifices these fundamental priorities and long-term fiscal stability.

CONGRATULATING CHARLOTTE
TAYLOR FOR WINNING THE 2003
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST**HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charlotte Taylor, a senior at Elkhart Memorial High School, in Elkhart, Indiana, who has been named a National Winner in the 2003 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. This annual contest, sponsored by the

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary, is especially significant this year given America's fight for democracy at home and abroad. The theme for this year's contest, "Freedom's Obligation" is echoed poignantly in the words of Ms. Taylor. I share with you these words, and applaud Ms. Taylor not only for her success, but her desire to champion the cause of liberty.

The tone of America has changed and it is a sound that is comforting us in times of pain. Growing up in America, I am familiar with the grand tradition of the country, but it is in the present I can truly identify what patriotism is. A flame has been lit inside my soul and I understand that with my freedom comes an obligation. An obligation to sacrifice, and to believe.

I work in the Hospital on a Geriatric unit. My job is to talk with the patients, most of whom were either veterans, or lost loved ones in one of the wars. I listen to their stories, and watch the pain in their faces as they recount the price they paid for my freedom. One woman's sacrifice stands out in my mind. Her father fought in World War I. He came home a changed man, abusive and suffering from posttraumatic stress syndrome. He terrorized her, until finally she became old enough to leave home. Eventually she got married and her husband served in World War II. While he faired well fighting in the war, she was left alone raising three young children. One of those children would grow up to die in Vietnam; a victim of Agent Orange. The entire time I sat and chatted with this woman, she never expressed resentment toward her country or the men she lost who served it. She understood her obligation of sacrifice as I do. If I refuse this duty, the millions before me who lost their lives will have lost their lives in vain.

It also is my obligation to support freedom. Believing in a system that has supported me is the least I can do. I study current events, and problems through out the world. Every time I read about the plight people in non democratic countries face, I realize how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to make something of my life. Because of these opportunities I am obligated to support freedom by becoming a productive member of society. It is my obligation to pay taxes and more importantly to vote. While I am not old enough to vote in this year's election, I convinced both of my parents to register to vote. My solitary voice caused two people to cast ballots this election year. Single voices being heard is what freedom is all about.

More than anything I am beginning to understand what patriotism feels like. Last Friday night I played America the Beautiful on the xylophone with our high school marching band during half time. The fans sang along, and never in my life have I felt so united with my country. I drive down the road with an American flag sticker on my car, and I see that hundreds of others have done the same. On the Wednesday after the world trade center attacks I went to the hospital to see if I could help the blood bank. I was turned away because so many volunteers had already come to offer their services. The Senior Auxiliary was touched that so many young people were trying to help and that more importantly we understood the magnitude of what was happening. At a time in our lives when much of what we do is centered around ourselves, Young people do understand our obligation to defend America's Freedom with our time and energy, or even our lives.

The tone of America is changing, and it is the pleasant sound of unity. While the country may not be singing the same song, at