

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

least we have the freedom to do so. My Peers and I are beginning to understand the sacrifices and support Veterans made to give us the freedom we enjoy today. I Thank veterans for fulfilling their obligation to freedom as I am beginning to fulfill mine.

APRIL SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Gotham Avenue School in the Elmont Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for April 2003. Mr. Marshal Zucker is the Principal at Gotham Avenue School, and Dr. Maria Palandra is the Superintendent of Schools in the Elmont Union Free School District. I also acknowledge Joy Madera, a Trustee on the Elmont Union Free School District Board of Education who helped arrange the school's selection. The school has 840 students in grades Prekindergarten through 6, with 65 members on staff.

The Gotham Avenue School Community is a close-knit body of parents, teachers, students, and administrators. Their goal is to ensure each child a stable early education through an enriched curriculum that keeps the children excited, and unique programs that appeal to a wide variety of younger children. The Elmont Union Free School District is a model of excellency with over 4,000 elementary school kids, which encompass over 70 spoken languages.

The school was one of two schools in the district, and one of the total 24 chosen schools in New York State, to win the 2003 Business Council of New York State Pathfinder Award. The award is given for Outstanding Educational Improvement. The recognition and honor is truly extraordinary in light of the 2,900 New York State elementary schools eligible for the Pathfinder Award.

Principal Zucker credits Gotham Avenue's recent success to the school district's new curriculum initiative. The school is focusing more attention on teacher planning and class curriculum mapping. Teachers try to instill in every student that every one of them has the capability of being a successful learner.

Long Island students receive a better education thanks to the faculty and teachers of Gotham Avenue School and I am proud to name them school of the month for April.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

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. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, in his State of the Union address to the Nation in January, President Bush acknowledged that the country faces many challenges and rightly said that "(w)e will not deny, will not ignore, we will not pass on our problems to other Congresses and future generations." These were noble words that spoke to the true spirit of America.

Unfortunately, the budget conference report denies or ignores many of the challenges we face and passes them along to our children and to our future leaders.

By insisting on new tax cuts for the wealthiest that we simply cannot afford, the budget blueprint will explode Federal deficits and debt for years to come. These piles of debt will be passed on to future generations and will severely weaken our ability to meet the funding challenges facing Social Security and Medicare because of the retirement of the baby boom generation.

This budget projects record deficits while paving the way for up to \$550 billion in new tax cuts. This budget agreement marks the worst deficits in our Nation's history. This historic achievement is at the same time that Republicans control both the Congress and the White House. What a sad legacy that is.

The result of this budget will be higher interest rates, the crowding out of private sector investment, and a reduction in long-term economic growth. Amazingly, in just two and a half years the \$5.6 trillion surplus that was projected when President Bush took office has been eliminated.

And not surprisingly, to make room for the latest round of non-stimulative tax cuts, the budget conference agreement again proposes cutbacks in domestic priorities like education, health care, transportation, and law enforcement—cuts that would have a significant negative impact on the vast majority of Americans.

I am not here just to condemn the Republican plan. In fact, I voted for an alternative, as did a few Republicans who objected to the Speaker's budget plan. The Democratic resolution would have adequately provided for education, would have provided \$528 billion for Medicare prescription drug benefit, and would have provided some tax cuts. We wanted to put some money in the pockets of American consumers likely to spend it to give this economy a boost, a jump. We wanted to give some money to businesses to encourage them to invest, some tax cuts to businesses to encourage them to invest. We had tax cuts too, just not as massive as those included in the president's proposal. Our proposal would have been balanced in the year 2010. We accumulated a trillion dollars less debt than the Republicans. We had a budget that was commendable. It was rejected.

Mr. Speaker, the sad truth is that this budget takes us further down the wrong path. This policy threatens the long-term fiscal health of our nation.

I am proud to vote against this flawed policy.

HONORING LEXISNEXIS FOR THIRTY YEARS OF ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize LexisNexis, a Dayton, Ohio company celebrating a very important milestone. LexisNexis, the first commercial, full-text legal information service, is celebrating its Thirtieth Anniversary this year. This company has more than 3,000 employees in Ohio and is headquartered in my district. It provides a service that has become a valuable information research tool to a wide range of professionals in the legal, government, business, and academic arenas.

Thirty years ago, LexisNexis launched the first online legal research system, an innovation that revolutionized the way legal and business research was conducted. Today, LexisNexis continues to revolutionize legal and business research by providing up-to-date information covering a variety of topics from legal documents to worldwide publications to legislative records. LexisNexis provides over a million and a half subscribers with a wealth of knowledge that is easily accessible.

As a lawyer and a lawmaker, I rely on the services provided by LexisNexis and am honored to recognize them today as a global leader in legal, news, and business information services. I congratulate LexisNexis on the success it has achieved over the past 30 years and wish the company and all of its 13,000 employees worldwide, continued success.

LexisNexis is truly deserving of this recognition and I am confident that it will maintain its commitment to deliver superior services and solutions to its customers over the next 30 years.

FALLEN HEROES IMMIGRANT
SPOUSE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Fallen Heroes Immigrant Spouse Fairness Act, to address a situation of fundamental unfairness under current immigration law. Many of our active duty military are married to alien spouses who have applications pending for permanent legal residence. As the current law is written, should the U.S. citizen spouse die before a 2-year period of marriage is reached, the pending application of the non-citizen spouse is vacated. Widows and widowers of our men and women in uniform who are in the process of applying for a green card should not have their application process terminated if they are unfortunate enough to have lost their loved one prior to reaching the 2 year threshold.

In the 3rd District of North Carolina, where there are numerous military installations and facilities, one of my constituents, a Marine, was killed in the line of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The spouse of this Marine is a