

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE HONORING 2003 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS MATTHEW MASTERS, OF MORENCI, MI, HEATHER ROBERSTON, OF ADRIAN, MI, AMANDA WHEELER, OF MORENCI, MI, DARCY BEREZNOFF, OF JACKSON, MI, DANIELLE FIGUEROA, OF JACKSON, MI, AND TIM CAUCUTT, OF ADRIAN, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is a sincere pleasure to recognize the finalists of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program. This special honor is an appropriate tribute to the academic accomplishment, demonstration of leadership and responsibility, and commitment to social involvement, demonstration of leadership and responsibility, and commitment to social involvement displayed by these remarkable young adults. We all have reason to celebrate their success, for it is in their promising and capable hands that our future rests.

The finalists of the LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program are being honored for showing that same generosity of spirit, depth of intelligence, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan. They are young men and women of character, ambition, and initiative, who have already learned well the value of hard work, discipline and commitment.

These exceptional students have consistently displayed their dedication, intelligence and concern throughout their high school experience. They stand out among their peers due to their many achievements and the disciplined manner in which they meet challenges. While they have already accomplished a great deal, these young people possess unlimited potential, for they have learned the keys to success in any endeavor.

As a Member of Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to join their many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to the finalists of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship program.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO ALTER FEDERAL TAX TREATMENT OF VOLUNTEER WORK OF SENIOR CITIZENS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, along with

four of my colleagues from Massachusetts, Representatives CAPUANO, DELAHUNT, FRANK and MARKEY, to alter the federal tax treatment of real property tax reduction vouchers received by senior citizens for volunteer work.

Approximately 42 towns in Massachusetts have implemented a program to ease the problem senior citizens, who live on fixed incomes, face due to rising property taxes. These towns have allowed senior citizens to perform volunteer work for their town in exchange for a voucher that reduces their property tax by up to \$500.

Specifically, my legislation would exclude from gross income vouchers issued by a government unit to offset real property taxes, and received by eligible senior citizens of 65 years of age, in exchange for volunteer work. The legislation also exempts these vouchers from employment taxes.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation enhances an important and creative program being implemented in many towns in Massachusetts. We devote a lot of effort around here to help make sure retirement does not sink senior citizens deep into poverty, and that they have basic health services. This very modest proposal takes a small step in helping seniors remain in their homes despite rising property taxes. A step, I hope, we can take this year.

A NEW SUNRISE: VIEQUES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the patriotic people of Vieques, Puerto Rico, for their tolerance and understanding during more than 60 years. In the past, the Vieques training range helped prepare the U.S. Navy forces for deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf.

Nevertheless, military training activities on Vieques interrupted local fishing operations and other economic development, and the effect of the activities by the Department of the Navy reduced the potential for developing the island as a tourist destination. Also, the pollutants released in to the local environment caused some concern among residents who feared an increase in the incidence of cancer and other diseases.

I applaud the Department of the Navy for recognizing that for these reasons, among many, the island of Vieques is no longer a satisfactory place for training exercises. Recognizing that the serenity and beauty of Vieques should be enjoyed, and not destroyed, on April 30, 2003, the Navy closed the base and transferred the land to the Department of the Interior to turn it to a wildlife refuge and a wilderness area.

These days, we hear so much about weapons, terrorism, and the military. It warms my heart that the sounds of exploding bombs has been replaced by the laughter of children en-

joying hiking, cycling, wild life observation, swimming, and fishing.

But worries about Vieques remain. Now that the military training exercises are over, the land must be cleaned up. The Island needs to be rid of the pollutants—thousands of unexploded bombs and toxins in the land, water, and air. Only then, would the land be truly returned to its rightful owners.

A RESOLUTION HONORING ERICA BUSHINSKI, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF JACKSON, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Erica Bushinski, winner of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Erica is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Erica is an exceptional student at Napoleon High School, and possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. Erica has received numerous awards for her excellence in science, English, social studies and athletics, as well as her volunteer activities with HOST and many other volunteer organizations. Erica is the recipient of a Board of Trustees Scholarship from Central Michigan University.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Erica Bushinski for her selection as winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION FOR CLARIFICATION OF HOSPITAL INSURANCE (HI) TAX EXEMPTION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my

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