

the Office of Photography. Dolly has displayed great passion for her work and dedicated herself to ensuring the needs of her customers were met with great enthusiasm.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Dolly for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Dolly many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
JOHN R. FECHKO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of John R. Fechko, devoted husband, father, friend, public servant and United States Veteran. Mr. Fechko's commitment to the safety of the residents of Seven Hills defined his 35 years of outstanding public service as a police officer, S.W.A.T. team member, and as Seven Hills Chief of Police for the past 20 years.

Mr. Fechko was a 1964 graduate of Parma Senior High School. Following graduation, he served in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps. In 1969, he joined the Seven Hills Police Department as a patrol officer. Mr. Fechko was promoted to sergeant in 1981, and in June of 1984, he was instated as Police Chief of Seven Hills.

Mr. Fechko's dedication to his career extended beyond the borders of Seven Hills. He was always willing to help an individual, family or neighboring community in need. He handed down his safety experience and expertise to cadets in training at the Cleveland Police Academy—a role he held for 31 years. Additionally, Mr. Fechko was a lead initiator of the Tri-City task force. This vital program focused on educating residents about key safety community issues, including gang activity, intervention of at-risk youths, and juvenile crime prevention.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. John R. Fechko. As police officer and Police Chief of the Village of Seven Hills, Mr. Fechko dedicated his professional life to the safety of his officers and the security and safety of the entire Seven Hills community. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Suzanne; his beloved son, Craig; his sister, Diane; and also to his extended family and many friends. His legacy of protecting others will live on within the hearts and memories of his family, friends, and the public he so faithfully served, today and for all time.

COMMENDING THE SAN MATEO
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CANINE
UNIT FOR EXCELLENT
COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to recognize the tireless work of

the forty-four year old San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit, as it continues to serve the people of San Mateo County. As the longest running canine unit in the state of California, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit is the only such unit in San Mateo County to provide full time patrol coverage, twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit was founded by Sergeant Bill Sweeney in 1961 with the purchase of three German shepherd dogs. Since its meager beginnings, the Canine Unit currently maintains twelve highly trained canine teams, which have various specialties. Each canine is trained in and performs general patrol practices such as obedience, handler protection and suspect searches. These canine teams are also assigned to and trained in expert detection of narcotics, tracking and explosives.

Over four decades of service, the Canine Unit has located hundreds of wanted felony suspects, uncovered tons of narcotics, and performed numerous explosive detection sweeps for United States' presidents, Senators, Representatives and foreign dignitaries.

In addition to protecting the citizens of San Mateo County, the Canine Unit also performs an average of thirty canine demonstrations per year for community and church groups, and middle and elementary schools. I became acquainted with this excellent Unit and its myriad accomplishments and abilities at one of these superb demonstrations.

On October 16, 2004, in conjunction with the public opening of "Art that Speaks for Homeless Pets," an art exhibit by animal rights activist and artist Cyrus Mejia, and photographer Clay Myers, at the San Mateo County History Museum, my wife Annette and I had the pleasure of attending one of these demonstrations. The Canine Unit brought five impressively trained German Shepherds to illustrate the precision and professionalism with which both the canines and their officers carry out explosive and narcotic detection.

I'd like to recognize the capabilities of the five teams that successfully entertained and educated the attendees:

Deputy Andy Armando and K9 Ando
Deputy Rod Larmour and K9 Abe
Deputy Todd Finato and K9 Vito
Deputy Keith James and K9 Haus
Deputy Sean O'Donnell and K9 Colt.

While I am an adamant animal lover and animal rights activist in my own right, indisputably, I was not the only spectator captivated by the animals discipline and sweetness. Indeed, all individuals in attendance were astonished and delighted to see the work of these loyal, well-trained canines and their equally dedicated officers.

According to Sergeant Mark M. Duri, Bomb Technician and Canine Trainer, the goal of these demonstrations is to educate the public of the great service the twelve canine and handler teams provide for San Mateo County. Moreover, the demonstration also functions to educate younger school children on the dangers of drug abuse and entanglement.

It is with gratitude to the long standing quality of service and protection provided for the residents of San Mateo County, that I sincerely commend the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit's continued excellence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIBERTY
AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Liberty Amendment, which repeals the 16th Amendment, thus paving the way for real change in the way government collects and spends the people's hard-earned money. The Liberty Amendment also explicitly forbids the federal government from performing any action not explicitly authorized by the United States Constitution.

The 16th Amendment gives the federal government a direct claim on the lives of American citizens by enabling Congress to levy a direct income tax on individuals. Until the passage of the 16th amendment, the Supreme Court had consistently held that Congress had no power to impose an income tax.

Income taxes are responsible for the transformation of the federal government from one of limited powers into a vast leviathan whose tentacles reach into almost every aspect of American life. Thanks to the income tax, today the federal government routinely invades our privacy, and penalizes our every endeavor.

The Founding Fathers realized that "the power to tax is the power to destroy," which is why they did not give the federal government the power to impose an income tax. Needless to say, the Founders would be horrified to know that Americans today give more than a third of their income to the federal government.

Income taxes not only diminish liberty, they retard economic growth by discouraging work and production. Our current tax system also forces Americans to waste valuable time and money on compliance with an ever-more complex tax code. The increased interest in flat-tax and national sales tax proposals, as well as the increasing number of small businesses that question the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) "withholding" system provides further proof that America is tired of the labyrinthine tax code. Americans are also increasingly fed up with an IRS that continues to ride roughshod over their civil liberties, despite recent "pro-taxpayer" reforms.

Mr. Speaker, America survived and prospered for 140 years without an income tax, and with a federal government that generally adhered to strictly constitutional functions, operating with modest excise revenues. The income tax opened the door to the era (and errors) of Big Government. I hope my colleagues will help close that door by cosponsoring the Liberty Amendment.

BILL TO PERMIT BETTY DICK TO
CONTINUE USE OF HER HOME IN
GRAND COUNTY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to permit Ms. Betty Dick to continue her use and occupancy of a house located within Rocky Mountain National

Park. The bill is cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Representative TANCREDO. I greatly appreciate his support.

The purpose is to allow an 82-year-old Grand County grandmother to continue to live in this house for the rest of her life, as she has done for 25 years under a legal agreement between her late husband and the National Park Service. That agreement ends on July 16 of this year. Without this bill or a new agreement with the National Park Service, at that time Ms. Dick, who has been a good neighbor with the National Park and who has opened her home for community events, will be evicted from this property.

Such an eviction is neither necessary nor desirable. Ms. Dick has been a good neighbor, has taken good care of the property and has not created management or administrative problems for the National Park Service in the years she has lived on this property. She should be allowed to continue to live on this property and continue to contribute to the National Park and the surrounding community.

I had hoped that Ms. Dick and the Interior Department could work out a resolution to this issue so that she could remain on her property.

Last year I asked Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to help make that happen. But the response—from the Director of the National Park Service's Intermountain Region—was that the Interior Department is “legally bound to honor the provisions of the [1980] settlement agreement” and that the furthest the Department would go would be to offer Ms. Dick “the opportunity to remain on the property for the entire summer of 2005,” an offer that evidently she has declined.

Ms. Dick needs to have a resolution to this issue as soon as possible—she needs to know by this spring whether she has to start packing her things and move out, or arrange to do some maintenance on the property if she is allowed to stay. I am not convinced that the Interior Department lacks the authority to resolve this matter by entering into a new agreement with Ms. Dick. But in any event, my bill would settle that question.

Since I first raised this matter with the Interior Department, I have been impressed with the outpouring of support from the nearby communities of Grand Lake and Granby, Colorado. The people in these communities have expressed a strong desire to have Ms. Dick remain on this property and be a part of their community. That is the purpose of this bill. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching background information and an outline of the bill:

BACKGROUND

Prior to their divorce, a married couple, Fred Dick and Marilyn Dick, owned as tenants in common a tract of land within the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park that included the property covered by the bill.

When Fred and Marilyn Dick were divorced, Marilyn Dick became the sole owner of the tract, but Fred Dick retained the right of first refusal to acquire it if Marilyn Dick ever chose to sell it.

In 1977, Marilyn Dick sold the tract to the United States for addition to Rocky Mountain National Park, but Fred Dick, asserting his right of first refusal, sued to cancel the transaction.

In 1980, that lawsuit was settled through an agreement between the National Park Service

and Mr. Dick and his heirs, successors and assigns. Under the settlement agreement, Mr. Dick and his new wife, Ms. Betty Dick, were allowed to lease and occupy the 23 acres comprising the property identified in section 2(b) for 25 years. Mr. Dick died in 1992, but Betty Dick has continued to lease and occupy the property identified in section 2(b) under the terms of the settlement agreement.

Betty Dick's right to lease and occupy the property will expire on July 16, 2005, at which time Ms. Dick will have attained the age of 83 years. She wishes to continue to occupy the property for the remainder of her life, and has sought to conclude a new agreement with the National Park Service that would permit her to do so. However, the Park Service has not been willing to agree to such an arrangement and is demanding that she vacate the property by July 16, 2005.

Since 1980, Betty Dick has consistently occupied the property as a summer residence and has made it available for community events. During that period, she has been a good steward of the property. Her occupancy has not been detrimental to the resources and values of Rocky Mountain National Park and has not created problems for the National Park Service or the public.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The legislation reflects the fact that it is appropriate for Betty Dick to be permitted to continue her occupancy of the property covered by the bill or the remainder of her natural life under the terms and conditions applicable to such occupancy since 1980. The purpose of the bill is to require the Secretary of the Interior to permit this.

OUTLINE OF THE BILL

Section 1 provides a short title, sets forth findings regarding background information and states the purpose of the legislation.

Section 2 has four subsections—

Subsection 2(a) would require the Secretary of the Interior to permit continued use and occupancy of property described in subsection (b) by Betty Dick for the remainder of her natural life, subject to the requirements of the bill.

Subsection 2(b) identifies the property covered by the bill through an appropriate map reference.

Subsection 2(c) provides that Ms. Dick's occupancy and use of the property covered by the bill is to be subject to the same terms and conditions as have applied to such use and occupancy under the 1980 agreement between the National Park Service and Ms. Dick's late husband, except that Ms. Dick is to make annual rental payments equivalent to 1/25th of the up-front amount that the agreement required to be paid to the National Park Service in 1980.

Subsection (d) states that nothing in the bill is to be construed as permitting construction of any new structure on the property covered by the bill and that nothing in the bill would apply to occupancy or use of the property by anyone except Betty Dick.

H.R. XXXX, EXTENSION OF THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL HIRE VETERANS COMMITTEE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, fundamentally, hiring former servicemembers is a good business decision. They are a competitive business asset and a unique national resource. They represent the very best of commitment, reliability, and resolve.

In the 107th Congress, President Bush signed into law the Jobs for Veterans Act (Public Law 107-288), which I authored with my friend SILVESTRE REYES. It established the President's National Hire Veterans Committee (NHVC) with a mission to reach out to employers and make them fully aware of the skills and attributes veterans offer to the civilian workforce. As we fight the war on terrorism, America's sons and daughters continue selflessly to volunteer for military service and then join the civilian workforce better prepared to make a significant contribution to our private economy. The NHVC expires on December 31, 2005.

Since its genesis in 2003, the President's National Hire Veterans Committee has initiated a nationwide marketing campaign which has brought more employers seeking veterans to the Department of Labor's One-Stop Career Centers.

NHVC launched a sophisticated website, www.hirevetsfirst.gov that helps employers and veterans while embracing the existing workforce development systems. Prior to this website there was no single national location of which I am aware for the either the employer or the veteran to find relevant information about each other.

NHVC initiated a unique advertising campaign to attract human resource specialists, business executives, and public sector employers. These are highly effective ads conveying a message of the value that veterans bring to the workplace. To guide employers to the website, a wrap-around cover “outsert” program, mailed to selected executive readers of Business Week, contains interviews with four business leaders including Robert Lutz, Vice Chairman of General Motors; Jackson Moore, CEO-designate of Regions Financial Corporation; and Bob Nardelli CEO of Home Depot.

NHVC has also been a catalyst for local and statewide initiatives to support jobs for veterans. NHVC worked with the governors of many states, including my home state of Idaho, to declare Hire Vets First month. The Committee is working directly with employers throughout America, and in a cooperative venture with NHVC, Home Depot hired over 13,000 veterans in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to convey the message of the competitive value and bottom-line results that veterans add to our economy. We must ensure that we as a nation properly leverage in our domestic economy the investment of over \$17 billion a year in training our military. But more importantly, we must continue to commend the virtues of our veterans who have the ability to learn new skills, and a propensity for teamwork, self discipline, loyalty and many other characteristics