

and Government. The award will be presented tomorrow, June 15, 2005, at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). Each year, *Good Housekeeping* magazine and the CAWP honor women, in government—elected or appointed officials, career civil servants, or members of the military—for their achievements in government that have improved people's lives. Assemblywoman Weinberg was selected from over 200 extraordinary women as first runner-up for this award because of her exemplary record of public service.

As one of only 13 women in the 80-member New Jersey General Assembly, Assemblywoman Weinberg serves as the Majority Conference Leader and represents New Jersey's Legislative District 37, which includes a number of towns we both have the privilege to represent, such as Englewood, Hackensack, and Teaneck. She has spent 13 years advocating on behalf of New Jersey's women and families and has spearheaded the passage of several pieces of landmark legislation. Two of her efforts have included passing a law, which mandates that new mothers must be allowed at least a 48-hour stay in the hospital after giving birth, as well as her law that established the first child-proof handgun law in the nation. Her leadership roles also include being the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and Vice-Chair of the Family, Women and Children's Services Committee. Aside from her professional work, Loretta is above all devoted to her children, grandchildren, her entire family, and her many, many friends.

Founded in 1971, the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) is a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey. The CAWP mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women's participation in politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. This is the eighth year the CAWP has participated along with the Ford Foundation in administering the Good Housekeeping Award for Women and Government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions that New Jersey Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg has made, that make the lives of all New Jerseyans so much better. I would like to acknowledge Loretta's lifetime of good works and dedication. I am proud to call her my friend.

CONGRATULATIONS, GEORGE  
SACCO

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate George Sacco on receiving the "Silent Defender" award from the International Code Council Foundation.

George, who is currently the fire marshal for O'Hara Township, was selected among more than 30 applicants from around the world. Mr. Sacco has held several different job titles during his incredible 76 years of dedicated service including fire chief and president of the Allegheny County Fire Chiefs Association. He has twice been named the Allegheny

County Fireman of the Year and continues to mentor aspiring firefighters, teaching courses ranging from hydraulics and arson investigation to home fire safety. Currently, he is the oldest fire instructor in age and service in the entire state of Pennsylvania.

The "Silent Defender" award is given to a person or organization that exemplifies the selflessness, dignity and credibility of the profession and dedication to safety. According to his peers, George personifies all of those qualities and continues to instill them in future generations of firefighters. Mr. Sacco received the award May 16th during the Building Safety Week at the annual International Code Council Foundation Dinner in Washington, D.C.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring George Sacco. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as George who truly embody the spirit of public service.

INTRODUCING THE WORKING  
FAMILIES GAS TAX CREDIT ACT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will go a long way to reducing the burden placed on American consumers due to escalating gas costs.

My bill, the Working Families Gas Tax Credit Act, provides a \$250 tax credit to individuals who make \$25,000 or less, and \$500 for joint filers who make \$50,000 or less, if the cost of a gallon of gasoline over a taxable year has increased from the previous year by more than twice the rate of inflation.

The credit will increase annually at an amount equal to the rate of inflation. The cost for a gallon of gasoline is based on the U.S. Regular All Formulations Retail Gasoline Prices, prepared by the Energy Information Administration of the Department of Energy.

Except for housing costs, low- and middle-income households in the United States spend more of their earnings on transportation than anything else. This minimal credit would go a long way to helping low- and middle-income families cope with escalating gas costs and limited resources.

I ask for my colleagues' support, and I urge the House Leadership to bring this bill to the floor swiftly for its consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SER-  
VITUDE AND EMANCIPATION AR-  
CHIVAL RESEARCH CLEARING-  
HOUSE (SEARCH) ACT OF 2005

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research ClearingHouse (SEARCH) Act of 2005, companion legislation to a bill soon to be reintroduced by Senator LANDRIEU

of Louisiana. The SEARCH Act would authorize the creation of a national database of servitude and emancipation records within the National Archives.

Mr. Speaker, for most Americans, researching their genealogical history involves searching through municipal birth, death, and marriage records—most of which have been properly archived as public historical documents. However, African Americans in the United States face a unique challenge when conducting genealogical research.

Due to slavery and discrimination, and their residues, African-Americans were denied many of the benefits of citizenship that produce traceable documentation such as voter registration, property ownership, business ownership, and school attendance. As a result, instead of looking up wills, land deeds, birth and death certificates, and other traditional genealogical research documents, African Americans must often try to identify the name of former slave owners, hoping that the owners kept records of pertinent information, such as births and deaths. Unfortunately, current records of emancipation and slavery are frequently inaccessible, poorly catalogued, and inadequately preserved from decay.

Although some states and localities have undertaken efforts to collect these documents with varying degrees of success, there is no national effort to preserve these important pieces of public and personal history or to make them readily and easily accessible to all Americans. While entities such as Howard University and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Library have extensive African American archives, the SEARCH Act would create a centralized database of these historic records. This database would be administered by the Archivist of the United States as part of the National Archives.

The SEARCH Act would also authorize \$5 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to establish the national database, as well as \$5 million in grants for states and academic institutions to preserve local records of servitude and emancipation.

On behalf of the many African Americans throughout the United States, and in recognition of the observance of June 19th as African American Emancipation Day or Juneteenth, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the SEARCH Act. I believe that this legislation will be a vital step in resurrecting the rich history of African Americans and the vital role that they played in building America. This legislation is not only a means by which African Americans can trace their lineage, but also as a means by which our nation can preserve historically comprehensive and accurate information for generations yet unborn.

Author Maya Angelou once said that "No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place." Let there be no mistake Mr. Speaker, the SEARCH Act will provide African Americans an opportunity to forge a crucial nexus between the past and the present. Just as important, it will give our nation an opportunity to continue to correct the unintended consequences of the past.

Join me in ending the horrible legacies of slavery and discrimination by giving African Americans a real chance to understand who they are and from whence they came.

RECOGNIZING QUAKER VALLEY  
HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Quaker Valley High School on being named one of Newsweek Magazine's top American Public High Schools.

Quaker Valley High, located in Leetsdale Pennsylvania, was recognized for its high academic standards and student scores on Advanced Placement tests. The school's Superintendent, Jerry Longo, takes pride in the fact that Quaker Valley offers its students a "well rounded curriculum, that combines traditional academic courses with the arts and sciences, technology, community service and a second language." The students of Quaker Valley also display a well rounded attitude with 80% of the student body participating in extracurricular activities.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Quaker Valley High School on this wonderful achievement. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the achievement of such a fine institution that plays such a vital role in the development of the future leaders of tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 241 and 242, I was absent because I was detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 241 and 242 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATIONS TO WEST  
PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the West Penn Allegheny Health System on the Grand Opening of a Joslin Diabetes Clinic at the Citizens Ambulatory Care Center in New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

The Joslin Center for Diabetes and the Joslin Clinic are international leaders in diabe-

tes management, research and education. The Joslin Diabetes Clinic, as part of the West Penn Allegheny Health System, will provide a variety of services including diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, chemotherapy, outpatient surgery and an Urgent Care Center. It is estimated that over 18 million people living in America today have diabetes, 13 million of whom have been diagnosed. That leaves over 5 million Americans unaware of the fact that they have the debilitating disease. The Alle-Kiski Medical Center's primary service area includes 200,000 residents and it is estimated that 16,000 people are suffering from diabetes, while 6,000 are still undiagnosed.

The West Penn Allegheny Health System and the Joslin Diabetes Center will employ medical directors and physicians that are board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology. The Clinic will also consist of diet, exercise and mental health professionals and will oversee aggressive patient education and public awareness initiatives aimed at detection and treatment of Diabetes.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the West Penn Allegheny Health System on bringing a world leader in diabetes detection, research and management to the Alle-Kiski Area. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the achievements of fine institutions that truly improve the lives of the citizens that benefit from their services.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF RICHARD PRICE FROM THE  
CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH  
SERVICE (CRS)

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my appreciation for the outstanding service that Mr. Richard Price of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has provided to the U.S. Congress. In June, Mr. Price is retiring from CRS after 32 years of service. In his position at CRS, Mr. Price has been an invaluable asset to Congress both through his own work analyzing major health care legislation, and in his tireless efforts to guide other analysts in Health and Medicine unit.

Over three decades at CRS, Mr. Price has worked on or supervised work on most, if not all, of the major health care legislation that Congress has considered. Mr. Price is a recognized expert in Medicare and Medicaid, the major U.S. health care financing programs; his particular areas of expertise span most aspects of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement policy, public health service programs and long-term care issues, including Medicaid eligibility and nursing home reform. His contributions to the development of legislation in these areas have been substantial. Through thoughtful analyses, balanced presentations, and clear explanations, Mr. Price has also helped countless Congressional staff understand the effect of the legislative proposals being considered. The importance of his dedicated support to the Ways and Means Committee when major health legislation was pending cannot be understated. We have re-

lied on the CRS staff through the years both for analytical and technical assistance during consideration of major legislation and for help in writing up reports to accompany bills that move through the Committee and the Congress. Mr. Price has played a key role in these processes.

In addition to his own work on legislation, Mr. Price has been responsible for managing an array of CRS analysts who assist Congress across a broad spectrum of health care issues, including those related to Medicare, Medicaid, the Public Health Service, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Veterans Administration. In his position as section head in the Domestic Social Policy Division at CRS, Mr. Price was instrumental in building the health care staff of CRS into a large team of experienced senior analysts.

His service to Congress in the analysis and development of policy alternatives affecting the range of private and public health care programs, his ability to conceptualize complex public policy issues, as well as his leadership of staff who work on many varied and complex health care issues, set the highest standards for assistance provided by CRS in service to the Congress. I am grateful for his assistance through the years, and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

AN ARTICLE BY MR. LEE JACKSON

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in today's record the following article by Mr. Lee Jackson, a constituent of mine who is battling a perverse tax law. Mr. Jackson and several other individuals were the target of a frivolous lawsuit that rightfully was dismissed for its lack of merit. Mr. Jackson and his fellow defendants—all totally blameless—spent many thousands of dollars in legal fees fighting the meritless suit. They understandably filed their own lawsuit against both the original plaintiffs and the plaintiffs' law firm. However, they cannot reach a monetary settlement for damages because our tax code treats all proceeds from such a settlement—even the portion Mr. Jackson owes to his attorneys—as taxable income for Mr. Jackson. As a result, Mr. Jackson literally cannot afford to settle his case because he will owe more in income taxes than he receives from the settlement! Furthermore, he cannot deduct his attorneys fees because of the alternative minimum tax. Mr. Jackson's story, as told below, provides a vivid example of why Congress must change the tax code to ensure that attorney fees are deemed taxable income to the attorneys who actually receive them, not their clients.

TAXING JUSTICE

*"It is in justice that the ordering of society is centered."* Aristotle

*"Justice is the constant and perpetual will to allot to every man his due."*—Domitus Ulpian

(By Lee Jackson)

There is perversity in using tax policy to reduce the numbers of frivolous lawsuits. Courts were developed in the first place to adjudicate impartially the relative merit of