

other areas such as Rochester, New York and Philadelphia and other areas are considering adopting the same approach. Project Exile needs to be applied on a federal level and not just on a state level. We cannot comprise American families and their safety by just denying felons access to guns. We must do more. We must effectively enforce gun laws.

We cannot be sure that our criminal justice system is doing all that it can do to keep guns out of the hands of violent felons if these felons are not consistently being prosecuted for their crimes. Our focus needs to be criminal control and not gun control. It is about time we take proactive measures to protect law-abiding citizens from becoming the victims of violent gun crimes. I urge my colleagues to vote for Project Exile.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HUMAN SPIRIT
OF MR. JOHN FRIDLEY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I praise the human spirit. We have become a cynical nation. It has become cliché to say that a good person is hard to find. I don't believe that for one minute. I meet good people everyday. On this occasion, I would like to commend Mr. John Fridley, of New Baden, Illinois.

John is a member of the Wesclin Community Unit School Board, the Kaskaskia Special School District Board and on the advisory board at Belleville Area College as well as active in his church. John also is a member of the Year 2000 Allocations panel for the United Way of Metro East. This father and grandfather, former teacher and retired member of the U.S. Air Force, now works as a civilian at Scott Air Force Base. By all indications, John is a success.

He credits his sense of civic duty and volunteerism to his father, who instilled in young John what you owe your services to the community where you live. Mr. Fridley is a dynamic leader and an inspiration to all of us in the 20th District of Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO ECKERD
CORPORATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a very important player in the war against drugs in our nation. The Eckerd Corporation has for many years now sponsored a Drug Quiz Show that reaches over 30,000 middle school students in New York State. This program teaches students important lessons about the dangers of substance abuse in a creative 'game show' format. In years past, the Eckerd Corporation has received recognition awards from the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and New York State Governor George Pataki. I believe that the local efforts of the Eckerd Corporation are in line with the company's national campaign, and I believe that

the Eckerd Corporation deserves to be recognized for its long-standing commitment to the Drug Quiz Show format.

Finals for this year's competition are scheduled to take place on Monday, May 8th, 2000 in Syracuse, New York. I would like to thank the coordinators of the event, especially Executive Director, Ms. Susan Meidenbauer, the Eckerd Corporation, the students, the schools, the parents, and administrators who are so supportive of this outstanding and exciting opportunity to educate young and old about the dangers of substance abuse.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CHARLES CITY
HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Charles City High School Music Department for its selection as a GRAMMY Signature School for the second time in as many years.

I would like to congratulate the students of the Charles City High School band, choir and orchestra. They are one of only 100 schools to be recognized in the country this year, and one of the three from Iowa. With this achievement, they have demonstrated that they have the ability and the desire to be assets and role models in their community and the great state of Iowa.

This award is given to schools that are dedicated to advancing music and arts-based education by the GRAMMY Foundation, a non-profit arm of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS). The recipients of this award are determined on the basis of a scoring system applied by an advisory committee made up of members of the musical industry.

I also congratulate the directors of the three music departments at the school; the Director of Bands, Jim Jurgensen, the Director of Vocal Music, Larry Michehl, and the Director of Orchestras, Nancy Western as well as Principal Jon Nordaas and the entire faculty at Charles City High School. Without their guidance and support, and that of the entire community, this prestigious recognition would not have been possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating the Charles City High School Music Department for the outstanding achievement of receiving the NARAS GRAMMY Signature School Award.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD DEEB AND
HARVEY WEISBERG

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 7, 2000 a dinner will be held under the sponsorship of American Arab and Jewish Friends, a program of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ). The NCCJ is an

organization founded to improve understanding and friendship between the Arab and Jewish communities.

The dinner honors two exceptionally distinguished citizens of Michigan, Edward Deeb and Harvey Weisberg.

Ed Deeb has been a leader in the food industry for almost forty years, currently serving as President and CEO of the Michigan Food & Beverage Association, Chairman of the Eastern Market Merchants Association and head of the Michigan Business and Professional Association. His commitment to community is demonstrated through his continuing coordination of the Metro Detroit Youth Day and his service in numerous organizations in a variety of capacities, among them the Salvation Army, United Way Community Services, Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Michigan.

Harvey Weisberg also has had a distinguished career in the food industry, playing a leading role in the retail business in Michigan. He has long been actively involved in improving the lives of those who live in Metro Detroit. He is a National Commissioner and a member of the Michigan Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, serves on the boards of the Jewish Welfare Federation, United Jewish Charities, Hillel Day School, United Hebrew Schools and the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce. Harvey had recently become involved with the Children's Sports For Peace Organization, which is planning to build sports facilities in Israel, Gaza City and other Arab cities.

It has been my pleasure to know Ed Deeb and Harvey Weisberg during their decades of professional and community work. I admire their efforts to create broader understanding between the Arab-American and Jewish communities in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Edward Deeb and Harvey Weisberg. It is very fitting that they be honored for their endeavors. May they help to stimulate further efforts to foster meaningful dialogue about major challenges and opportunities.

TAX LIMITATION CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the H.J. Res. 94, the Tax Limitation Constitutional Amendment. I would first like to thank my distinguished colleague from Texas, Representative PETE SESSIONS for sponsoring this overdue piece of legislation. This legislation of which I am cosponsor, requires any tax increase passed by Congress to be supported by more than a simple majority. The Tax Limitation Amendment states that any tax increase must pass by a two-thirds vote of Congress.

Taxes are the most fundamental means of pricing out the government, and yet few taxpayers understand the price that they pay when members of Congress pass tax increases by a simple majority. Currently, 14 states require tax limitation standards, which have caused tax and spending decreases while increasing employment and economic

expansion. Why not implement a tax limitation standard on the federal level so that this same effect can be felt by all Americans?

There are a number of important issues which require a two-thirds vote by Congress such as amending the Constitution, overriding a Presidential veto; two events which clearly require the parties of Congress to come to a consensus. The decision to increase taxes is an important issue and it too should require more than a majority, it should require a consensus.

When Congress votes yes to increase taxes, it has an effect on everyone. When I was elected to represent the second district of Nebraska, one of my priorities was to fight against any and all attempts by the federal government to take more money away from my constituents. Last year many of my colleagues and I voted to cut \$792 billion dollars in taxes for hard-working Americans, a great effort which was vetoed by the President. Unfortunately, we had no hope of overriding the President's veto because we could not muster the two-thirds votes necessary from the House. Any attempt by members of Congress to cut taxes is put in jeopardy by the President's ability to veto. We should require any increase in taxes to receive overwhelming support of Congress—a two-thirds vote.

Many of the major tax increases levied on Americans have passed without a two-thirds vote. In 1982, Congress passed the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act which cost the taxpayer \$214 billion dollars without a two-thirds vote; Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 totaling \$40 billion dollars without a two-thirds vote; Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 for \$25 billion dollars without a two-thirds vote; Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 for a whopping \$137 billion dollars without a two-thirds vote. Finally, Congress passed one of the largest tax increases in American history, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 for \$275 billion dollars by 1 vote not a two-thirds vote. I believe that I have made my point. If you are going to send Americans a tax bill, you better have the support from two-thirds of Congress.

The economy of the United States is at a fiscally sound level, but our taxes remain to be the highest they have been since World War II. As Congress, our main goal is to keep our economy sound and contribute to the current prosperity. Preventing future tax increases will help us in this mission. One way to accomplish this is to require a two-thirds vote from Congress before making a decision that could alter our lives.

Federal tax laws have numerous unintended consequences on Americans. Congress needs to make decisions in the best interest of Americans by ensuring that any federal tax increase is supported by more than just a simple majority. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. SHIRLEY
SCHMITT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Ms. Shirley Schmitt, who is the fifth-grade

teacher at St. Jacob Elementary School. Shirley was named the school Recycling Coordinator of the Year, otherwise known as the "Recycling Queen" because of her creative ways of cleaning up the world around her.

As a former teacher, I know that you have to be inventive to grab and then maintain the kid's attention. Her recycling program is much more than separating glass and plastic, she makes it fun. Let me share with you some of Shirley's ideas: using pencil shavings as mulch or using 6 pack plastic rings along with a shish-kabob stick to make flowers.

When you are creative in the classroom, and make projects fun, you dare a child to dream. That is the magic of teaching. Thank you Shirley.

TRIBUTE TO MS. AMANDA NODINE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I received a letter two weeks ago from a constituent, The Honorable Lucille Craine, who is supervisor of the town of Victory, New York which is in my district. Included in the letter was an essay, written by Amanda Nodine, a thirteen-year-old student who attends Red Creek Central School. Amanda's essay, titled "Our Flag, Why Should We Respect It?", has received various acclamations, including recognition by the Wolcott Elk Lodge and other American Legion organizations.

I am very proud of Amanda for her patriotism and loyalty to our country. She exhibits discipline, sensitivity, and love for her country while also representing her school and her community. I am equally proud of Red Creek High School, the parents, and administrators who are so supportive of this outstanding young citizen.

I have included her essay for the record.

OUR FLAG, WHY SHOULD WE RESPECT IT?

(By Amanda Nodine)

The American Flag has many reasons why it should be respected. Yet many people don't understand the meanings of the American flag.

Many Americans fought for our country risking their lives. People died so they could save our country. The soldiers wanted all of us to be free now, in the future, and back then. The American flag shows honor and support for the people who fought, died, and suffered, all for our country.

The flag has many meanings. The flag symbolizes independence, freedom, justice, America, and democracy. The flag has 50 white stars on a navy blue background, and 13 alternating red and white stripes. The 13 strips represent the original 13 colonies. It has 50 stars for all of the 50 states. The flag's colors are red, white, and blue. Red standing for heroism, zeal, and faith; white for hope, purity, and cleanliness of life; and blue the color of heaven, in honor of God, loyalty, sincerity, justice, and truth.

We show patriotism when we salute the flag, fly it on/at important events, government buildings, schools, American legions, Elks Clubs, and other important buildings.

Without our flag we wouldn't be a free country. We could be owned by another country and ruled by one too.

The flag should be respected because it is an important monument and also because it

symbolizes the freedom of our country. Respect the American flag!

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS MILLER
OF MERIDIANVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Mr. Thomas Miller of the Madison County Sheriffs Department. Mr. Miller goes above and beyond the duties of a public servant. Mr. Miller works the night shift with the Sheriff's Department, but still finds time to lead a group of Tiger Scouts.

Mr. Miller has dedicated himself to this group of eager young men and has taught them by example about a life of citizenship and patriotism. The Tiger Scouts respect Mr. Miller and the job he does everyday to protect them and their families, often without proper recognition or gratitude.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his exemplary role as a leader in our community. Children in this country need more role models like Mr. Miller. I believe that this honor is fitting for someone who has given so much of himself for this community and this nation.

I want to wish Mr. Miller and his family best wishes and express to him my gratitude on behalf of the United States Congress for his selfless work with the Tiger Scouts in our community.

A CELEBRATION OF
INTERNATIONAL GUIDE DOG DAY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, thousands of individuals around the world will celebrate International Guide Dog Day. This day was brought to my attention last November, when I received a letter from a constituent of mine, Ms. Christine de Angeli. She is a junior at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Pottomac, MD, and has spent a great deal of time as a foster puppy raiser. She believes that having sight is a gift, and feels that it is important for her to donate her time toward improving mobility for those with visual impairments. At her urging, the State of Maryland will issue a Governor's Proclamation recognizing International Guide Dog Day.

Christine is currently raising her second dog guide puppy. Often when she is out with the puppy, she encounters people who are unaware of the opportunity to become a foster puppy raiser, oftentimes they are very interested in learning more about how they can help. These volunteers are great ambassadors for our country's dog guide program.

Just by happenstance Mr. Speaker, a new staff person in my office is a dog guide user. Watching her work her dog guide on the Metro, in meetings, and around the office has given me a much greater appreciation for the value of these dog guides and how they enable one to keep working despite the loss of vision.