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So well did he succeed that way,
He blessed us by example.

HONORING MRS. MATTIE HOLMES OF TEXARKANA, AR

HON. JAY DICKEY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a wonderful lady from Texarkana, AR—Mrs. Mattie Holmes.

On July 11, 1993 she will join her family in a tradition that has existed for many years in celebrating their love, togetherness and faith. This year the Holmes family will honor their matriarch, Mrs. Mattie Holmes, as she celebrates her 88th birthday at the Holmes family reunion.

The Holmes family has resided in Miller County, AR for seven generations. Mattie Holmes was born in 1905 and married the late Earl Holmes, Sr. in 1922. Earl and Mattie Holmes were successful farmers in Miller County until their retirement in 1965. They shared a wonderful and happy union for 59 years, until Earl's transition in 1981. Together they raised 5 wonderful children and to date Mrs. Holmes shares her love with 24 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren.

Mrs. Holmes has always been an active member of the New Zion Baptist Church, where she is loved and respected in so many ways. Mrs. Mattie Holmes has been a model citizen in the community for many years and today, it is an honor to extend my best wishes to her and the entire Holmes family as they celebrate this very special occasion.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHANNEL 44

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention that today is the eighth anniversary of WSNS–TV, channel 44, as a full-time Spanish television station in Chicago.

Channel 44, "El canal de la Hispanidad," the Hispanic heritage station, has earned the trust and respect, not only of the Hispanic community, but, of the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois as a whole. This is why when their operating license was threatened, everybody coalesced to defend it, until victory was recently obtained. This is why the Illinois Broadcasters Association gave channel 44 the Station of the Year Award for 1993.

Channel 44 has distinguished itself with worthwhile, innovative, and creative public service programming and public service education campaigns on areas such as school reform, education, citizenship, voter registration, antismoking and many others. I wish to congratulate the owners of the station, its employees, and its general manager, Jose Francisco Lamas. Happy Birthday, channel 44. And, I suggest others in the industry look at this very good example of excellence in broadcasting.

JHOON RHEE LAYS FOUNDATION OF SUCCESS FOR RUSSIAN LEGISLATORS

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Master Jhoon Rhee, the world-renowned martial artist and father of American Tae Kwon Do. Master Rhee has brought his highly successful joy of discipline and born to be happy programs to thousands of people, including Muhammad Ali, more than 100 Members of Congress, and most importantly, to thousands of children across America.

Since 1989, Master Rhee has been providing the Russian people with a powerful message pertaining to "knowledge in the mind, strength in the body, and honesty in the heart" through the martial art of Tae Kwon Do.

The power of Master Rhee's system has been demonstrated in the 70 schools and clubs that have opened throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States over the last 3 years.

In honor of Master Rhee's ongoing work, I would like to insert a copy of an article, describing his latest work, that appeared in the May 29, 1993, edition of the Moscow Times into the RECORD.

[From the Moscow Times, May 29, 1993]

GETTING A KICK OUT OF LEGISLATORS

(By Nanette van der Laan)

Arguing, shouting and pounding their fists on the table may be the way Russian parliamentarians communicate with each other these days. But if Jhoon Rhee has his way, the deputies would start their sessions by bowing.

Master Rhee, who over the last 28 years has taught more than 100 U.S. Congressmen the martial art of Tae Kwon Do, is committed to do the same in Russia.

He brings a simple message: "Knowledge in the mind. Strength in the body. Honesty in the heart."

The Korean-born Rhee wants to teach this philosophy to Russia's top legislators. Speaking at a press conference Friday at the White House, he that said a new utopia could be built in Russia as long as life's three most important values are respected: truth, beauty and love.

To demonstrate his fitness Rhee, 61, sprawled on the floor during the press conference, pressing his chest and head flat to the floor. He said he does 1,000 push-ups a day to stay in shape for Tae Kwon Do, a Korean martial art resembling karate.

"Flexibility is just as important physically as it is politically," said Rhee, jumping back to his feet. "The same is true for balance. If you kick with one leg, you must make sure you balance your other leg. I'm trying to alert parliamentarians that they must balance the national budget the same way. Presidents Reagan, Bush and now Clinton are all having difficulties."

Rhee, who was honored by President George Bush for his services, said that he is willing to instruct the Russian deputies for as long as they want, free of charge.

He said that 12 Supreme Soviet deputies had taken part in this training class Tuesday, and that this was a fine result.

"The first time I taught U.S. Congressmen only two people showed up," he said with a smile. "So the outcome was six times better."

"The deputies are still beginners and so far we have only done the basics." said Rhee, who moved to the United States at the age of 24. "But they were very enthusiastic."

Rhee said that during his first lesson, he taught the deputies to show respect by bowing to each other. This, he says, is vital in human society.

Rhee, who has taken his "Born to Be Happy" and the "Joy of Discipline" message to seminars around the former Soviet Union, has been appointed an adviser to the State Committee for Youth, Sports and Physical Education.

This was not his first visit to this part of the world; in past travels, he has set up 65 Tae Kwon Do studios across the former Soviet Union. His services were sought by the Russian government as part of a campaign to encourage foreign investment in sport.

Rhee, who counts the former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali among his pupils, has been training Russians free of charge, saying that his foundation is a nonprofit one.

"I have enough money to finance my work here," Rhee said after the press conference. "I am paid $2,500 for a three-hour seminar for business executives in the United States."

Asked whether he though it would be possible that his teachings could become a "tool of the criminal society," Rhee replied: "The border between good and bad is very thin. But if people are directed well, they will use their strength only for good, honest purposes."

INTRODUCTION OF THE PERFORMANCE RIGHT LEGISLATION

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, today, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. HUGHES, introduced important copyright legislation concerning the rights of those to make sound recordings. Although I am not a cosponsor of this legislation at this time I want to commend our Judiciary Subcommittee chairman, for introducing this legislation. This bill seeks to close a gap in the U.S. copyright law to provide a digital performance right for sound recording copyright owners. The introduction of this legislation is an important step in ensuring that U.S. copyright law keep pace with advancing technology and places the United States in a leadership position as the World Intellectual Property Organization considers this issue in the international arena.

As ranking member of the Intellectual Property Subcommittee, I look forward to working with the chairman and other subcommittee members on this critical issue. This matter is not new to me or to this subcommittee. However, the rapid development of digital delivery services and the international trade considerations for this matter have changed the parameters of the debate and demand a speedy resolution.

I recognize that the bill introduced will undergo some change as it works its way through the legislative process. However, I encourage the affected parties to work with the

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subcommittee and each other to reach a solution.

CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, one of the most pressing problems facing our nation is the budget deficit and exploding national debt. Everyone agrees that we must tackle this problem now, but there are many opinions on how best to do it.

Recently, I provided more than 200,000 households in Ohio's 10th District with an opportunity to register their individual opinions on a number of important budget issues. My first "Citizen Survey" featured questions on a proposed constitutional amendment to balance the Federal budget as well as on President Clinton's overall economic plan; including key components such as his proposals for an economic stimulus package and increased taxes on energy and social security benefits.

I'm pleased that more than 15,000 constituents—an unusually high return rate according to opinion research experts—took the time to fill out and mail back their reply cards. I'm also pleased to report that by a margin of nearly 4 to 1, my constituents said they consider these citizen surveys to be an appropriate and beneficial use of the frank.

Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful for my constituents' willingness to share their personal opinions on these important issues, and I'm pleased to report here in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the results of our citizen survey so that my colleagues may have the benefit of this valuable input from the citizens of Northeast Ohio.

CITIZEN SURVEY

Do you support the President's proposed economic plan which calls for $337 billion in new taxes, $211 billion in spending cuts, and $160 billion in new spending over the next four years?

Yes—16%; No—84%.

Do you support the President's $19.5 billion emergency stimulus package?

Yes—14%; No—86%.

Do you support an increase from 50% to 85% in the taxable portion of Social Security benefits received by beneficiaries who earn more than $25,000 (single filers) or more than $32,000 (joint filers)?

Yes—20%; No—80%.

Do you support the President's proposed BTU tax—a tax on the energy content of fuel, including coal, natural gas, and petroleum?

Yes—15%; No—85%.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to mandate a balanced federal budget, which if passed by Congress would then be sent to the States for ratification?

Yes—83%; No—17%.

Does this questionnaire constitute an appropriate and beneficial use of the taxpayer-funded franking privilege?

Yes—78%; No—22%.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1993

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Social Security Benefits improvement Act of 1993. This bill contains Social Security benefit improvements in which a great many Members have expressed interest—it improves both the retirement earnings test and the level of benefits for elderly widows. It also complies with the requirements of the Budget Enforcement Act that all increases in Social Security benefits be balanced with offsetting savings or revenue increases.

I ask that a staff summary of this legislation appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following these remarks.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1993

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RETIREMENT EARNINGS TEST FOR AGES 65–69.

The Social Security retirement earnings test is a test of eligibility for retirement benefits. For beneficiaries age 65–69, it withholds $1 of benefits for every $3 of earnings over an annual threshold amount. In 1993, this threshold is $10,560. The bill would double this amount over 5 years, raising it to $12,000 in 1994, $14,000 in 1995, $16,000 in 1996, $18,000 in 1997 and $20,000 in 1998.

SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENT IN BENEFITS FOR WIDOWS.

Widows may file for benefits beginning at age 60. However, their benefits are permanently reduced by 28.5 percent, so that the benefit they receive is 71.5 percent of the amount they would have received had they wait until age 65 to claim benefits. The bill would lessen the amount of this reduction to 25 percent, so that a widow who applied for benefits at age 60 would receive a benefit equal to 75 percent of the age-65 amount.

SEC. 4. ELIMINATION OF 7-YEAR RULE FOR DISABLED WIDOWS.

Widows who are disabled may file for benefits beginning at age 50. However, their disability must have begun within seven years after their spouse's death or within seven years after the end of their entitlement to mother's or father's benefits (which are paid to widows caring for children under age 16). The bill would eliminate this "seven-year rule."

SEC. 5. INCREASE IN SOCIAL SECURITY WAGE BASE.

The Social Security payroll tax is imposed on wages up to $57,600 annually in 1993. This amount is known as the wage base, and it is indexed to rise each year by the rate of growth in average wages. The bill would raise this amount by $2,100 in 1994, so that the wage base would be $60,000 in 1994 instead of $57,900 as projected under current law. The wage base would be indexed annually thereafter.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE TRANSITION RELIEF FOR NONPROFIT STUDENT FUNDING CORPORATIONS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 21 nonprofit student loan funding corporations which serve as regional secondary markets for lenders originating student loans under Federal student loan programs. These corporations, described in Internal Revenue Code section 150(d), are permitted to issue tax-exempt debt to finance acquisitions of student loans so long as the earnings are reinvested in student loans. Most of these nonprofits have financed student loan acquisitions with both taxable and tax-exempt debt. These organizations are defined as 501(c)(3) organizations by the Internal Revenue Code and therefore, they are not permitted to raise equity capital from private investors.

The modifications to the Federal student loan programs, whether via a direct loan program or otherwise, will cause many lenders to end their involvement in the Student Loan Program. This will occur because many lenders will not continue to devote resources to either a winding down program or to the continuing program if financial incentives are reduced. The loss of capital to the transition phase of the modified student loan programs will result in a substantial need for greater capital support from the private sector.

Nonprofit student loan funding corporations desire to serve this capital need but will need tax law changes to enable them to raise the needed capital. Specifically, they need the ability to transfer their assets and liabilities, including tax-exempt debt, to a for-profit taxable corporation in exchange for a stock interest in such a conversion corporation. This transfer will allow the conversion corporation to raise equity capital.

Chairman MOAKLEY and I are introducing legislation that will amend the Federal tax laws to permit the transfer of the assets and liabilities of a nonprofit scholarship funding corporation to a for-profit, fully taxable conversion corporation. Neither the nonprofit corporation after the conversion, nor the conversion corporation will be able to issue additional tax-exempt debt and outstanding tax-exempt debt will continue to support the Student Loan Program until that debt is retired.

The legislation provides an efficient means of bolstering the capital base of the secondary student loan market during the transition period and of assuring the maintenance of the expertise and workforce of the nonprofit scholarship funding corporations for their future roles in the Federal student loan programs. I urge this legislation to be reviewed in relation to the transition to a direct loan program.

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