

and his wife, Marcia, have three children and five grandchildren.

All of us in Cincinnati congratulate Dick on receiving this prestigious recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC
SAFETY TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Public Safety Tax Cut Act. This legislation will achieve two important public policy goals.

First, it will effectively overturn a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service which has declared as taxable income the waiving of fees by local governments who provide service for public safety volunteers.

Many local governments use volunteer firefighters and auxiliary police either in place of, or as a supplement to, their public safety professionals. Often as an incentive to would-be volunteers, the local entities might waive all or a portion of the fees typically charged for city services such as the provision of drinking water, sewerage charges, or debris pick up. Local entities make these decisions for the purpose of encouraging folks to volunteer, and seldom do these benefits come anywhere near the level of a true compensation for the many hours of training and service required of the volunteers. This, of course, not even to mention the fact that these volunteers could very possibly be called into a situation where they may have to put their lives on the line.

Rather than encouraging this type of volunteerism, which is so crucial, particularly to America's rural communities, the IRS has decided that the provision of the benefits described above amount to taxable income. Not only does this adversely affect the financial position of the volunteer by foisting new taxes about him or her, it has in fact led local entities to stop providing these benefits, thus taking away a key tool they have used to recruit volunteers. That is why the IRS ruling in this instance has a substantial deleterious impact on the spirit of American volunteerism. How far could this go? For example, would consistent application mean that a local Salvation Army volunteer be taxed for the value of a complimentary ticket to that organization's annual county dinner? This is obviously bad policy.

This legislation would rectify this situation by specifically exempting these types of benefits from federal taxation.

Next, this legislation would also provide paid professional police and fire officers with a \$1,000 per year tax credit. These professional public safety officers put their lives on the line each and every day, and I think we all agree that there is no way to properly compensate them for the fabulous services they provide. In America we have a tradition of local law enforcement and public safety provision. So, while it is not the role of our federal government to increase the salaries of these, it certainly is within our authority to increase their take-home pay by reducing the amount of money that we take from their pockets via federal taxation, and that is something this bill specifically does as well.

Mr. Speaker I am proud to introduce the Public Safety Tax Cut Act, and I request that my fellow Members join in support of this key legislation.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE: A
TEEN CONFERENCE

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about two young people from Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District who came to Washington this week to participate in the Voices Against Violence congressional teen conference. The Voices Against Violence conference, which was organized by the House Democratic Caucus, was intended to bring together young people from around the country to engage them in a constructive discussion about youth violence.

Most Americans have been shocked and distressed by the series of high-profile school shootings committed by young people over the last year. Our Nation's children are, sadly, the people most affected by youth violence. They are also often the individuals with the greatest insight into the causes of youth violence and ways to prevent violent acts in the future. The Voices Against Violence conference was intended to bring young people from across the country together to discuss youth violence—and to utilize their insights to develop innovative solutions to the problem of youth violence.

Over 300 young people between the ages of 13 and 19 attended the Voices Against Violence conference on October 19th and 20th in Washington, DC. President Clinton addressed the students, and then participants attended workshops with experts on teen violence, discussion groups about possible solutions, and skills training sessions to learn about violence prevention initiatives that have been found to be effective.

Two of my constituents, Zara Carroll and Jeff Smith, attended the Voices Against Violence conference with their parents. On behalf of my constituents and myself, I want to commend Zara and Jeff for their interest and involvement in this important issue. I hope that they found the conference to be engaging and informative, and that they will continue to work to help reduce violence and the threat of violence in their communities in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO CARL R. HILLIARD,
"ONE CAPITOL FELLOW"

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor a dedicated man and his career. In his thirty plus years of covering the Colorado Capitol for the Associated Press, Carl Hilliard proved himself to be a man of truth and integrity. During that time, I'm glad to say that I was fortunate to get to know him well.

His colleagues knew him as a man who cared not about being in the limelight, but a

man who took the time to get to know the story and the people behind it. Hilliard is a man of the West, a Renaissance man. His columns frequently received a lot of exposure throughout the country and rightfully so. They were witty, informative, and revealing. You could always count on Carl to be critical of the politicians at the Capitol, but at the same time compassionate and duteous.

As the dean of the Capitol Press corps, he was effective in reporting Capitol news. That role earned him a very laudable honor, being named as one Denver's 100 most influential journalists and the respect of his fellow journalists.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I honor this man who will truly be missed by his colleagues and those that enjoyed reading his column. For so many years, he has been a role model for young journalists and a pillar form which all journalists drew inspiration. I wish him well in his much deserved retirement. I look forward to continuing my friendship with him in the future.

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF
DR. JOHN R. BISAGNO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and help celebrate the ministry of Dr. John R. Bisagno. After 30 years, Dr. Bisagno will be retiring from Houston's First Baptist Church.

John Bisagno was born on April 5, 1943 in Augusta, KS. He is married to Uldine Beck Bisagno. The Bisagnos have three children, Ginger Bisagno Dodd, Anthony Bisagno, and Timothy Bisagno, and five grandchildren.

Dr. Bisagno graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and received a doctor of letters degree from Southwest Missouri Baptist University and a doctor of divinity degree from Houston Baptist University, where the "Chair of Evangelism" is named in his honor.

In February 1970, Dr. Bisagno became the pastor of the 22,000-member First Baptist Church of Houston. He has authored 24 books, including the best seller "The Power of Positive Praying." He is the past president of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference and has gained national attention as a dynamic and effective crusade evangelist and Bible teacher. He was the first preacher on the Southern Baptist ACTS television network.

During the 30 years of Dr. Bisagno's ministry at First Baptist Church, the church relocated from downtown Houston, purchased property near the intersection of Interstate 10 and Loop 610 in Houston, built a worship center and education buildings now valued in excess of \$60 million and continues to be an integral part of the dynamics of Houston, TX.

Dr. Bisagno has announced that he will retire from the pulpit on Sunday, November 21, 1999. However, I am certain that John Bisagno will continue to be a Christian committed to spreading the gospel. When he retires from Houston's First Baptist Church, he retires to continue to be a significant part of the faith community in Houston, in Texas, in the United States, and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. John R. Bisagno.