

very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 175, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Morgan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Morgan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Morgan Walker Martz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

APRIL 15TH—TAX DAY

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, once again the Tax Man cometh. Today, April 15, is the day American taxpayers scramble to comply with a tax code, over 67,000 pages long.

In 2007, individual taxpayers spent an estimated 3.18 billion hours complying with the Federal income tax laws. Individuals spend \$26.5 billion for tax software, tax preparers, postage, and other costs related to filing their Federal income tax, while corporations spend \$156.5 billion to comply with Federal tax laws. Americans may send two and a half trillion dollars to the IRS, but the cost to our economy is much greater. Despite this, the majority party is forcing a \$654 billion tax increase on the American people, the largest in American history.

It's time to scrap the IRS and this oppressive tax code. It's time to look at the fair tax or the flat tax as viable alternatives to our overly burdensome tax code. It's time to stop punishing taxpayers and pass fundamental tax reform.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for three rollcall votes on April 14th. If I had been present for those votes, I would have voted as follows:

First, on rollcall No. 183, to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 886, Expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado, as a cosponsor of the resolution I would have voted "yes."

As the resolution reminds us all, on Sunday, December 9, 2007, a troubled individual was responsible for killing several innocent people and injuring others at, first, the Youth With a Mission facility in Arvada and, a few hours later, at the New Life Church in the Colorado Springs Area—where he was fatally shot by Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard.

The resolution rightly commends Ms. Assam and the quick response of local first respond-

ers in the city of Arvada and in Jefferson County as well as those in El Paso County and Colorado Springs who, assisted by Federal authorities and medical professionals limited the danger to the church and local community. And it offers the heartfelt condolences of the House of Representatives to the victims and families of these tragic acts of violence in Colorado and conveys our gratitude to Jeanne Assam, city and county officials, as well as the police, fire, sheriff, Federal authorities, and emergency medical teams whose quick response saved lives.

Second, on rollcall No. 184, to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 994, regarding National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day, I would have voted "yes."

And, third, on rollcall No. 185, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3548, as amended, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act, as a cosponsor of that measure I would have voted "yes."

H.R. 3548 requires Federal agencies to use plain language in government documents related to obtaining a service or a benefit. It responds to the fact that government documents often are complex and difficult to understand, particularly when they are not written clearly. To address this problem, President Clinton in 1998 issued a memorandum that, in part, required Federal agencies to use plain language in all documents that explain how to obtain a benefit or service. However, while a few agencies still maintain plain language programs, efforts to promote plain language have waned. H.R. 3548 defines plain language and requires agencies to use plain language in any new document that explains how to obtain a service or a benefit or that is relevant to obtaining a service or a benefit. The bill ensures that many of the letters, forms, and other documents that people receive from the government will be written in a clear, understandable way. Under this bill, for example, the Social Security Administration would be required to use plain language in letters that provide beneficiaries information about Social Security.

I joined in cosponsoring the bill because I think it is important for those of us in government to do more to communicate clearly with our employers, the American people, and I hope that the Senate will join the House in giving prompt approval to the legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, during the week of February 25–29, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 69–87.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 69, H. Res. 978, "yea" on rollcall vote 70, H. Res. 930, "yea" on rollcall vote 71, H. Res. 944, "yea" on rollcall vote 74, H. Res. 974, "yea" on rollcall vote 75, H.R. 3521 the Sires of New Jersey Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 76, H.R. 3521 the Meek of Florida Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 81, H. Res. 1001, "nay" on rollcall vote 83, H.R. 5351 on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "yea" on rollcall vote 84, H.R. 5351, "yea" on rollcall vote 85, S. 2272, "yea" on rollcall vote 86, H.R. 4454, "yea" on rollcall vote 87, H.R. 4454.

Madam Speaker, during the week of March 3–7, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 88–106.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 88, H.R. 1143, "yea" on rollcall vote 89, H.R. 1311, "yea" on rollcall vote 90, H.R. 816, "yea" on rollcall vote 91, H.R. 4191, "yea" on rollcall vote 92, H. Con. Res. 278, "yea" on rollcall vote 93, H. Res. 951, "yea" on rollcall vote 96, H. Res. 1014, "yea" on rollcall vote 97, H.R. 4774, "yea" on rollcall vote 98, H. Con. Res. 286, "nay" on rollcall vote 100, H.R. 1424 the Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "yea" on rollcall vote 101, H.R. 1424, "yea" on rollcall vote 102, H.R. 5400, "yea" on rollcall vote 104, H. Res. 1015, "nay" on rollcall vote 105, H.R. 2857 the Flake of Arizona Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 106, H.R. 2857 the Inslee of Washington Amendment.

Madam Speaker, during the week of March 10–14, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 108–145.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 108, H. Res. 537, "yea" on rollcall vote 109, H.R. 3196, "yea" on rollcall vote 110, H.R. 4166, "yea" on rollcall vote 115, H. Res. 924, "yea" on rollcall vote 116, Motion, "yea" on rollcall vote 117, H.R. 2082, "yea" on rollcall vote 118, H. Res. 948, "yea" on rollcall vote 119, H. Res. 493, "yea" on rollcall vote 122, H. Res. 1031, "yea" on rollcall vote 130, H. Res. 1036, "yea" on rollcall vote 131, H.R. 5563, "yea" on rollcall vote 132, H. Con. Res. 316, "yea" on rollcall vote 133, H. Res. 936, "yea" on rollcall vote 134, S. 2733, "yea" on rollcall vote 137, H. Con. Res. 312 Kilpatrick of Michigan Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 138, H. Con. Res. 312 Lee of California Amendment, "nay" on rollcall vote 140, H. Con. Res. 312 Ryan of Wisconsin Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 141, H. Con. Res. 312, "yea" on rollcall vote 142, H. Res. 991, "yea" on rollcall vote 143, H. Res. 1041 On Ordering the Previous Question, "yea" on rollcall vote 144, H. Res. 1041 On Agreeing to the Resolution, "yea" on rollcall vote 145, H.R. 3773.

Madam Speaker, during the week of March 31–April 4, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 147–160.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 147, H.R. 3352, "yea" on rollcall vote 148, H.R. 2675, "yea" on rollcall vote 149, H. Con. Res. 302, "yea" on rollcall vote 150, H. Con. Res. 310, "yea" on rollcall vote 151, H. Res. 1005, "yea" on rollcall vote 152, H. Res. 1021, "yea" on rollcall vote 154, H. Res. 1065 On Ordering the Previous Question, "yea" on rollcall vote 155, H. Res. 1065 On Agreeing to the Resolution, "yea" on rollcall vote 156, H.R. 5501 Carson of Indiana Amendment, "nay" on rollcall vote 157, H.R. 5501 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "yea" on rollcall vote 158, H.R. 5501 On Passage, "nay" on rollcall vote 159, H.R. 4847 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "yea" on rollcall vote 160, H.R. 4847 On Passage.

Madam Speaker, during the week of April 7–11, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 161–182.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 161, H.J. Res. 70, "yea" on rollcall vote 162, H.R. 2464, "yea" on rollcall vote 163, S. 793, "yea" on rollcall vote 164, H. Res. 1084 On Ordering the Previous Question, "yea" on rollcall vote 165, H. Res.