

This Week in Washington

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Pombo supports Marriage Tax Penalty repeal

Congressman Richard Pombo today voted to enact permanent marriage tax penalty relief. The legislation, approved by a margin of _____, would make permanent the following marriage penalty relief provisions that were enacted in the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act 2001:

- Increasing the standard deduction for married couples to twice the deduction for single taxpayers.
- Increasing the width of the 15% tax bracket for married couples.
- Increasing the phase-out range of the Earned Income Credit (EIC) by \$3,000 for married couples.
- Simplifying the EIC to reduce tax complexity for low-income taxpayers.

"It is just plain wrong to ask couples to pay higher taxes just because they get married," Pombo said of the legislation he co-sponsored. "When I got married, I didn't expect the IRS to stand in the reception line."

If the Senate fails to approve this legislation, then beginning in 2011, the standard deduction for married couples will be reduced, forcing 21 million married couples to pay more taxes. According to the Heritage Foundation, the 51,854 couples are subject to the marriage tax penalty, affecting 97,430 children, in California's 11th Congressional District alone.

Pombo blasts Senate for blocking Death Tax Repeal

Calls on Daschle to stop "Partisan Games"

Statement by Congressman Richard Pombo regarding the Senate's blocking of permanent death tax repeal:

"I am extremely disappointed that the United States Senate continues to block legislation the American people support. Permanent repeal of the death tax, overwhelmingly supported by small business owners and farmers in my Congressional district, is just the latest example. It's time for Tom Daschle to stop playing partisan games on issues important to the public."

Even though a majority of the Senate supported the measure, with a vote of 54-44, Senate rules required a super-majority of 60 votes to pass the measure. On June 6, the House of Representatives approved similar legislation by a vote of 256-171.

For more information on the 50+ bills that are stalled in the United States Senate, please visit <http://www.freedom.gov/library/economics/dasch50.asp>.

Stimulus legislation provides economic boost

It has been over 12 weeks since the President signed legislation to help ensure a rapid recovery of our nations economy. This GOP sponsored legislation is providing a powerful incentive to businesses to increase investment and prepare for another robust expansion.

Recently, economic indicators have been released indicating better than expected growth. New orders of factory goods in April increased an impressive 1.2 percent overall and a proxy for capital goods orders jumped 4 percent. This increase coincides with final passage of the stimulus bill. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) survey of manufacturing sector activity indicated the fastest rate of growth in that sector in over two years, beating Wall Street expectations. Today, the Department of Labor released job data for May that indicates that the unemployment rate fell from 6.0 percent to 5.8 percent and that 41,000 new jobs were created last month. These modest gains should accelerate in the coming months as the recovery continues.

From the Office of Rep. Bill Thomas - Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means

Today in History

1775 - The United States Army was founded by the Continental Congress.

1777 - The Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the "Stars & Stripes" as the national flag of the US.

1846 - A group of US settlers in Sonoma proclaimed the Republic of California.

1893 - Philadelphia observed the first Flag Day.

1900 - Hawaii became a US territory.

1922 - Warren G. Harding became the first US president to be heard on radio.

1932 - US Representative Edward Eslick died on the House floor.

1943 - The US Supreme Court ruled that schools could not force children to salute the flag if it conflicted with their religious beliefs.

1944 - 60 US B-29s attacked Honshu Island for the first raid against mainland Japan.

1954 - President Eisenhower signed an order adding the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

1988 - The Fat Boys filed a \$5 million law suit against Miller Beer and Joe Piscopo for using their likeness in a Miller Lite commercial.

1989 - President Reagan received an honorary knighthood from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

1996 - The FBI released that the White House had done bureau background reports on at least 408 people without justification.

From www.on-this-day.com

This Week in Washington cont.

Bill to make Feds pay for Endangered Species protection

"Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., wants the federal government to pick up the cost of protecting endangered species. He plans to introduce the Endangered Species Funding Act, he said in a videotaped presentation to the Wyoming Stock Growers Association's convention Saturday in Casper. 'One of the biggest problems we face in Wyoming in dealing with the Endangered Species Act is that the people forcing us to implement this law have no real perspective on what it does or how it impacts state and local communities,' he said. His legislation would amend the original act to shift costs away from states and land owners. It includes costs of state management plans, surveys, conservation agreements and land acquisitions. It would also cover losses from predation and reduced property values. Land owners are forced to invest time and money to ensure that plants, fish and animals are managed according to priorities set by federal agencies, he said. 'It is only fair, then, that federal dollars be provided to pay for these federal priorities,' Enzi said."

Reprinted from the Associated Press

Pombo's guacamole mix is a D.C. hit

Last week, Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Tracy, put on his chef's hat and personally served up his own special guacamole mix. It was his own fault.

Once Pombo's guacamole recipe was published in The Hill, a special congressional newsletter/Web site (www.hillnews.com), popular demand swelled and forced him to hold a special open house at his D.C. office.

There were chips, salsa and Pombo himself whipping up the special avocado blend. Who says members of Congress have forgotten how to have fun?

Reprinted from the Record

For those that missed it last month, here is the Pombo guacamole recipe:

3 large ripe avocados
1 tomato, diced
1/4 cup onion, minced
1 small can Ortega green chilies, diced
Half-cup sour cream
2 cloves garlic, smashed
2 tbsp. lemon juice

Mash avocados in a large bowl then add other ingredients. Store in airtight container in refrigerator until ready to serve with tortilla chips. For a spicier dip add a minced jalapeno when mixing.

Weekly Quotes

When two-thirds of married couples are required to pay higher income taxes solely because they have married, the American public rightly loses respect for the law.

- Michael J. Graetz

Wordsmith

par·ti·san

Function: noun

Etymology: Middle French partisan, from Old Italian partigiano, from parte part, party, from Latin part-, pars part

Date: 1555

1 : a firm adherent to a party, faction, cause, or person; especially : one exhibiting blind, prejudiced, and unreasoning allegiance

2 a : a member of a body of detached light troops making forays and harassing an enemy b : a member of a guerrilla band operating within enemy lines

synonym see FOLLOWER

- partisan adjective

- par·ti·san·ly /-IE/ adverb

- par·ti·san·ship /-"ship/ noun

Reprinted from m-w.com

Comments from the District

"Let's do more to not let foreigners with shady backgrounds into the country first before we start a police state against our own citizens." - **Andrew Cowell** - 6/7/02

"Give the President his new homeland security department." - **Andrew Ferrannini** - 6/7/02

"The 'Freedom of Speech' rights of pornographers should not supercede the privacy rights of decent citizens." - **Robert Hallam** - 6/3/02

"If over 50% of what we earn was not sucked up in taxes and hidden government expense we could afford our own health care, etc." - **William Costanzo** - 5/15/02

You can view more comments on Congressman Pombo's web site bulletin board at the link here: <http://www.house.gov/pombo/board/board2002/board2002.htm>

By the Numbers

The latest Post-ABC poll found that Bush's overall job approval rating remains strong. More than three in four Americans -- 77 percent -- say they approve of the way Bush is handling his job as president, including majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents.

Reprinted from the Washington Post