

Rico's manufacturing sector, the most important sector of Puerto Rico's economy.

The results of the phase-out are clear. Today we enjoy a balanced budget and a rather large surplus, but my people in Puerto Rico do not have the jobs. While the taxpayers in the U.S. have earned tax relief, so, too, have Puerto Ricans, who sacrificed during efforts to balance the budget and grow the Federal budget surplus. It is time to provide my constituents with tax relief through incentives for further investment and job creation in the Tax Code.

The challenge is to develop a sustainable stimulus for employment-generating investment in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican economy operates under U.S. standards that are far above those of our main competitors in the global marketplace. Our workers are well trained and educated, are very productive; but we need new tools to continue to grow our economy and be competitive again. Well-designed, sustainable tax incentives will level the playing field and permit us to compete.

Congress has been there for Puerto Rico in the past. In 1976, Congress enacted the special tax exemption under section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code. This was part of an effort to attract U.S. companies to Puerto Rico to create jobs for island residents.

I am here today to ask my colleagues to support a new economic stimulus package for Puerto Rico. Since the phase-out of the 936, economic growth in Puerto Rico has averaged 20 percent less than that of the United States. There has been an unprecedented loss of high-paying manufacturing jobs. No other U.S. jurisdiction has lost manufacturing jobs at such an alarming rate.

Recently layoffs are hurting workers and families in Puerto Rico. During the first 2 months of this year, leading U.S. companies like Intel, Coach, Sara Lee, and Phillips Petroleum have cut production and in some cases closed plants in Puerto Rico. These reductions alone will cost over 5,000 jobs, in addition to the 18,000 we have already lost. Today over 10 percent of the labor force in Puerto Rico is unemployed.

Some cities in Puerto Rico have been particularly hard hit by lost jobs. The average annual pay in Puerto Rican cities ranges from \$16,000 to \$19,000, while the national average is over \$34,000 per year. More than half of the population of Puerto Rico falls below the U.S. poverty threshold.

As I stated earlier, one of the reasons Congress eliminated the tax incentives for the U.S. companies in Puerto Rico was to balance the budget. Now we are faced with a surplus. I ask for your support in efforts to provide necessary and deserved relief for Puerto Rican workers and families.

ON THE BIRTHDAY OF A GREAT AMERICAN, TRUETT CATHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, on March 14 we will celebrate the 80th birthday of a great American, Mr. Truett Cathy, founder and chairman of the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain.

In his book, *It is Easier to Succeed Than to Fail*, Mr. Cathy says and I quote, "The longest journey begins with the first step. Ahead of each person is a pilgrimage to success, a journey characterized by challenge and adventure. So here's to the winners, for they give each task their effort and find in the end it's easier to succeed than fail."

Mr. Cathy has lived out his own words. He started his business in 1946 when he and his brother, Ben, opened an Atlanta diner known as the Dwarf Grill, later renamed the Dwarf House. That restaurant prospered over the years.

In 1967, Mr. Cathy founded and opened the first Chick-fil-A restaurant in Atlanta's Greenbriar Shopping Center. Today Chick-fil-A is the third largest quick-service chicken restaurant company in sales in the United States. Today there are more than 963 restaurants in 34 States and South Africa.

Remarkably, Mr. Cathy has led Chick-fil-A on an unparalleled record of 33 consecutive years of sales increases. Most recently, in 1996, he has led the company into international expansion into South Africa.

Mr. Cathy's approach is largely driven by personal satisfaction and his sense of obligation to the community and its young people. His WinShape Centre Foundation, founded in 1984, grew from his desire to shape winners by helping young people succeed in life through scholarships and other youth programs.

The foundation annually awards 20 to 30 students wishing to attend Berry College with \$24,000 scholarships that are jointly funded by the Rome, Georgia, institution. In addition, through its Leadership Scholarship Program the Chick-fil-A chain has given over \$15.6 million in \$1,000 scholarships to Chick-fil-A restaurant employees since 1973.

As part of his WinShape Homes Program, there is a long-term care program for foster children. Eleven foster-care homes have been started in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Brazil that are operated by Mr. Cathy and the WinShape Foundation. These homes, accommodating up to 12 children with two full-time foster parents, provide long-term care for foster children with a positive family environment.

To add benefits to his WinShape Homes program, Mr. Cathy committed to Chick-fil-A's first major sports sponsorship, the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship, hosted by Nancy Lopez. In

1995, the LPGA-sanctioned tournament at Eagles Landing Country Club in Stockbridge, Georgia, raised \$170,000 for WinShape homes. Having completed its 6th year, the Chick-fil-A championship hosted by Nancy Lopez has contributed more than \$2.1 million to WinShape homes.

In 1996, Chick-fil-A became the title sponsor of the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, the annual college football match-up between the top teams for the Atlantic Coast Conference team and the Southeastern Conference. As with the LPGA tournament, a portion of the proceeds from the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl is donated to WinShape. To date, the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl has raised more than \$400,000 for the WinShape cause.

The third core component distinguishing WinShape programs is Camp WinShape. It was founded in 1985 as a series of 2-week summer camps at Berry College to help boys and girls build self-esteem through physical and spiritual activities. More than 1,500 campers from 20 States attend WinShape sessions annually.

Mr. Cathy is a devoutly religious man who built his life and business on hard work, humanity, and Biblical principles. Based on these principles, Mr. Speaker, all of Chick-fil-A restaurants, both domestically and internationally, operate with a closed-on-Sunday policy without exception.

When not managing his company, Mr. Cathy performs community service and teaches a Sunday school class of 13-year-old boys, as he has done for the past 45 years.

In addition to presiding over one of the fastest-growing restaurant chains in America, Mr. Cathy is a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. His two sons, Dan and Don, known as Bubba, have both followed their father's footsteps in learning the business from the ground up.

Dan is executive vice president of Chick-fil-A and president of Chick-fil-A International, and Bubba is senior vice president and president of Chick-fil-A Dwarf House Division.

Mr. Cathy's daughter, Trudy, is the youngest of three children. She and her husband, John, have returned to the United States from Brazil, where they served as missionaries. Mr. Cathy and his wife, Jeannette, have 12 grandchildren.

Thank you, Mr. Truett Cathy, for all you have done for our country, our community, and for your fellow man. Happy birthday, Mr. Truett Cathy.

THE ROLE OF CIVILIANS IN OBSERVING MILITARY ACTIVITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to express my deep sorrow regarding the training accident on the Kuwaiti bombing range