



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



MARCH 7, 2003

Hot News!

Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act, Not Fair

"Days before the House Ways and Means Committee took up an innocuous military bill last month, Chairman Bill Thomas (R-Calif.) made an offer to other Republican committee members at their weekly luncheon: prepare a wish list of tax breaks under \$100 million each, and they could add them to the measure,"

Washington Post, March 5, 2003.

Rep. Betty McCollum chastised GOP leaders this week for pushing blatant special interest tax breaks at the expense of delaying critical tax relief for military families. The Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act (HR 878) was to be considered this week by the House, but was pulled from the calendar because of growing rancor over \$300 million in special interest tax breaks added by GOP leaders for corporations and foreigners who bet on American horse races.

"Supporting our service men and women should be far more important than giving tax breaks for foreign gamblers, said Rep. McCollum. "The House could have passed a bill this week that respected the sacrifice of our service men and women and their families. Instead, House Republicans took a non-partisan issue and decided to play politics with our armed services."

"We have a choice. Either we can support the special interests of lobbyists or we can value the sacrifice of our service men and women and their families. My vote will be with our armed forces and their families," said Rep. McCollum.

Other special interest provisions included in HR 878 by House Republicans include, a tax break for several varieties of bows, a tax break to benefit manufacturers of fishing tackle boxes, and a tax break to benefit landowners who sell timber from their land.

"Pic" of the Week



Rep. McCollum, a Member of the House Committee on International Relations, met Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets, at the Chinese Embassy last week at a celebration in his honor.

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