

Permanent tax relief for married couples

Rep. Devin Nunes hailed passage of a House plan that will prevent tax increases on 30 million married couples. The marriage penalty relief bill will return \$12 billion to working families.

"Families are the backbone of our society, so it is only fitting that a man and wife get every financial advantage possible to make ends meet," Mr. Nunes said. "The average family of four will see their taxes rise by over \$300 if Congress doesn't act this year to make this tax relief permanent."

The House voted 323 to 95 in favor of making the tax relief permanent.

Before 2001, a married couple earning similar in-



comes paid more in taxes than two single taxpayers filing individually. Tax relief passed by Congress in 2001 phased out these penalties by providing couples a standard deduction that is twice

that of single taxpayers. The House action would continue the benefits of the 2001-passed tax relief and prevent married couples from facing tax increases.

Nunes supports troops financial relief act

Rep. Devin Nunes helped pass the "Guardsmen & Reservists Financial Relief Act," which will provide financial relief for the families of National Guardsmen and Military Reservists who have been called to serve in the war on terror.

"These brave men and women are serving to help protect all American families," Mr. Nunes said. "This legislation will help their families pay the bills while Guardsmen and Reservists put their careers on hold to sacrifice for our country."

By leaving their jobs in the private sector to fill vitally needed positions for our national defense, many National Guardsmen and Military Reservists have

taken a drastic cut in pay, placing their families in financial hardship.

H.R. 1779 — "The Guardsmen & Reservists Financial Relief Act" - allows guardsmen and reservists who are activated for more than 179 days to make penalty-free, early withdrawals from their IRA or pension fund. The bill is retroactive to cover those guardsmen and reservists who were called to service beginning on September 11, 2001, and extends to cover those who may continue to be called to active duty through September 12, 2005.

Additionally, to ensure financial retirement security for these soldiers and their families, H.R. 1779 encourages repayment of the with-

drawn funds to the IRA or pension fund within two years of ending this active duty, and temporarily lifts the contribution cap to equal the amount of the withdrawn funds to allow for full repayment.

