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REP. STARK DUBS APRIL 15th "TAX PATRIOTS DAY"

Typical American Family Paid Their Share of 2003 Federal Services in 38 Work Days

Washington, D.C. – **Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA)**, Ranking Democrat of the **Joint Economic Committee**, has dubbed April 15th "Tax Patriots Day" to celebrate our annual patriotic duty to pay for the government services Americans need and rely upon.

"In all, the typical American family worked 38 days in 2003 to pay their share of federal taxes for the year and fulfill our patriotic duty to America," said Stark. "In doing so, we paid to secure our nation, protect our communities, help our veterans, support the elderly and disabled, educate our children, give a leg up to poor families, protect the environment, improve our roads and infrastructure and stand behind our farmers. On this day, we should be proud for fulfilling our patriotic duty to help make a better future for America."

In 2003, the typical American family worked:

- 6 days and 6 hours to support our men and women in uniform and maintain a strong national defense.
- 1 hour to give local first responders the resources and tools to respond to possible terrorist attacks that threaten our communities and America's way of life.
- 1 day to repay all America's veterans for their sacrifice and service to our country through medical benefits and other services tailored to meet their needs.
- 1 day and 1 hour to make sure every American child gets a Head Start, receives an education, has a chance to go to college and is given an equal opportunity to succeed.
- 8 days and 4 hours to support Social Security that guarantees every American a secure retirement or survivor benefits if a spouse or parent dies.
- 4 days and 3 hours to fund Medicare that provides quality health care for all Americans when they reach 65 or if they struggle with a disability.

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- 5 days and 1 hour to help poor families receive Medicaid and pull themselves out of poverty, and provide low-income children with free school lunches.
- 2 hours to ensure that all Americans have clean air and water, national parks to enjoy and pristine wilderness to treasure.
- 1 day and 1 hour to pay for maintaining America's 42,000 miles of interstate highways and other roads, bridges and other transportation systems throughout the country.
- 3 hours to aid America's farmers who make our nation the breadbasket of the world.
- One-third of an hour to inspect our food supply and medicine making certain it is safe.

These are a partial list of services Americans paid for and should be proud to support.

The Joint Economic Committee, established under the Employment Act of 1946, was created by Congress to review economic conditions and to analyze the effectiveness of economic policy.

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