



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Taxpayer Group Names Sen. Wayne Allard “Hero of the Taxpayer”

Americans for Tax Reform issues its 2001 Congressional Ratings; Colorado Senator receives a 95% rating.

WASHINGTON —America’s leading taxpayer advocacy organization, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), today issued its “Hero of the Taxpayer” awards.

Among the recipients this year was Colorado Sen. Wayne Allard, who received a 95% rating from ATR. The awards are given to members of Congress who, by scoring at least 85, consistently side with taxpayers on important legislative issues.

“Wayne Allard has shown his colors to the taxpayers of Colorado and those living all across America,” said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, who heads ATR in Washington. **“With a 95% score, Colorado taxpayers need not worry where Sen. Allard’s interests lie. Allard represents taxpayers, not the raptorial government spending lobbies that swarm around his office building in Washington.”**

ATR began issuing the “Hero of the Taxpayer” awards in 1995. The awards are based on 18 congressional votes per senator and representative, and members receive five points for each issue on which they sided with taxpayers. Members of Congress also receive 10 points if they have signed ATR’s Taxpayer Protection Pledge, which is a written commitment to their constituents not to raise taxes, making for a highest possible score of 100. The votes chosen to calculate the ratings, as well as their explanations, can be viewed on ATR’s website at www.ATR.org.

“Taxes are the single most important domestic policy issue in America today,” continued Norquist. “Until President Bush’s tax relief legislation last year, taxes, when compared to the output of the American economy, were at a post WWII high. But tax levels remain well above the historical average even with the tax cut, and **more senators and representatives like Mr. Allard are needed to keep the government small and our tax burden under control.**”

Grover Norquist established ATR in 1985 to generate popular support for the Tax Reform Act of 1986, which radically simplified the nation’s tax code. The group evolved to become one of the most influential advocacy groups in Washington, opposing all tax increases at the federal, state and local levels as a matter of principle. ATR supports a tax structure where taxes are simpler, fairer, flatter, more visible and lower than they are today.

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who support tax simplification and oppose all federal and state tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.