

EDITORIAL

“Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” – Benjamin Franklin 1789

“Our massive deficit is not due to American’s being under-taxed, but to government’s over-spending” - Mike Huckabee 2007

My philosophy is that every American is overtaxed and should use every legal opportunity to pay the least tax possible. As such, my mission is to keep as much money as possible in your pocket, and out of the hands of the government. I will help you do this by finding every legal deduction, exemption, exclusion, and credit that applies to your individual situation.

Why do I believe everyone is overtaxed? Primarily it is because all spending bills are routinely filled with “Pork Barrel” projects and “Earmarks”. There has been some recent rhetoric in Congress to eliminate or reduce earmarks, but it seems they always turn up under another name or buried in committee reports. It is estimated over 90% of earmarks don’t make it to the Congressional floor, but are instead placed in committee reports to try and back door the funding and avoid scrutiny. Examples are too numerous to mention and are constantly changing. The **“Pig Book”** published by Citizens Against Government Waste is a good source to find the latest examples of the self indulgence of your elected officials. You will find it at http://www.cagw.org/site/PageServer?pagename=reports_porkbarrelreport . Check out the \$1.8 million earmark for Iowa to study why pigs smell!

Many people blame the IRS for the current state of complexity of the U.S. Tax Code and the sometimes strained relationship between taxpayers and the IRS. As a tax professional licensed by the U.S. Treasury Department to practice before the IRS, I don’t view the IRS as an adversary. The IRS is simply a collection agency for the misguided bureaucrats in Congress who pass the Tax Code and then continue to annually “tweak” it to meet their personal agendas and fill their “Pork Barrels” with “Earmarks”. The IRS is often left to interpret the gray areas of the Tax Code when Congress isn’t specific enough on their intent, and this is where much of the confusion and dissatisfaction with the IRS comes in. As I said, the IRS is simply the collection agency, and they are caught between a rock and a hard place, namely the taxpayers who often feel the taxes are too high and the collection process unjust, and Congress who lately has criticized the IRS because they are unable to collect all the taxes due according to the Tax Code. The “Tax Gap” is the difference between what is estimated to be owed by all taxpayers, and the amount that is actually able to be collected by the IRS. There are many reasons for the GAP, but two of the most frequently

quoted are taxpayers purposely cheating, and secondly misunderstandings because of the complexity of the Tax Code.

I can't reduce the wasteful spending on my own, but I will do my best to minimize the cost to you.