

the United States Housing Act of 1937, de-regulate the public housing program and the program for rental housing assistance for low-income families, and increase community control over such programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I regret that I must vote against H.R. 2406, the Housing Act of 1995. While I support the provisions which reduce burdensome regulations for public housing authorities and consolidate numerous programs, I do not support the provisions which will limit housing options for our Nation's most vulnerable residents and families.

During House debate, I spoke in favor of Representative FRANK's amendment to retain the Brooke amendment, an amendment which would have ensured that residents in public housing do not pay more than 30 percent of their limited income toward rent. Although the House was successful in retaining this important provision for our Nation's elderly and disabled, and those with incomes below 30 percent of the area median, H.R. 2406 still contains language which will effectively shut out low-income working Americans from affordable, decent housing. I have long held that we need meaningful welfare reform and that there ought to be a safety net for those Americans trying to get their feet back on the ground. Repealing the Brooke amendment will severely hurt our Nation's low-income, working residents who are struggling to afford a home, food, clothing, and medicine.

In addition to repealing the Brooke amendment, the House bill also changes regulations regarding income targeting. I commend Chairman LAZIO for his efforts on compromise language with Representative KENNEDY from Massachusetts to reserve more public and assisted housing for the very poor. I also share the goal of integrating a broader range of incomes for people in public housing, but I remain concerned that many low-income Americans will still be cut off from housing assistance while housing authorities seek to attract people with higher incomes. It is my hope that the House-Senate conference will result in an agreement to ensure that those who are in dire need of housing are able to receive assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I heard from hundreds of Rhode Islanders who expressed serious concerns about this bill and the repeal of the Brooke amendment. At a time when Americans are already coping with drastic budget cuts, it does not make sense to disadvantage working residents and families by placing affordable, decent housing out of their reach.

Mr. Speaker, everyone needs a place to live, and, as such, housing legislation should be a bipartisan effort. The Senate has taken this to heart and passed bipartisan legislation which preserves the Brooke amendment. It is my hope that the final bill will be more like the Senate version, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure safe, decent, affordable housing for all Americans.

HONORING THE FRANKLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services

provided by the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school at Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

ADOPTION PROMOTION AND STABILITY ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act. I commend Congresswoman MOLINARI for bringing the important issue of adoption to the floor. H.R. 3286 attempts to correct the disproportionate representation of minorities in the foster care system by preventing discrimination in the placement of children on the basis of race, color or national origin. This bill also provides adoptive parents up to \$5,000 in tax credits to assist in adoption expenses.

Mr. Speaker, the promotion of adoption is one of the most important things we can do to strengthen American families. All children, regardless of age, sex ethnicity, and physical and emotional health are entitled to a family. Adoption enables children, whose parents cannot or will not raise them, to become part of a permanent family. Furthermore, it serves as a second chance for the thousands of children who have been removed from their families because of abuse or neglect.

The high cost of adoption can be an impediment to many families wanting to adopt. With the inclusion of legal fees, court costs and charges levied by adoption agencies, the cost of an adoption can exceed \$15,000. This is a heavy burden for America's low- and middle-income families who desire to adopt. The \$5,000 adoption tax credit included in this may make the difference between a child in foster care becoming part of an adoptive family or remaining in foster care indefinitely.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express my concern regarding the title III provision in H.R. 3286 which would overhaul the Indian Child

Welfare Act [ICWA]. I supported the Young-Miller amendment which would have eliminated title III from this bill, and am hopeful that further consideration will be given to convening hearings or meetings with the Indian community on the title III provision.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3286 represents a positive approach in finding homes for our Nation's needy children. Although the bill is not flawless, I support this effort to facilitate the adoption of children, and to decrease the time that many of our children languish in the foster care system. I join with my colleagues in support of this legislation.

HONORING THE FORKS RIVER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Forks River volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

KELLY BUNCH, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Kelly Bunch, winner of the 1996 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Kelly is being honored for demonstrating

that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, MI.

Kelly Bunch is an exceptional student at Tecumseh High School and possesses an impressive high school record. A member of the National Honor Society, Kelly has also been a student council representative and the treasurer of her senior class. She was nominated to National Young Leaders Conference, and was listed in "Who's Who Among American High School Students." Kelly also was a member of the softball team and the varsity volleyball team. Outside of school, Kelly was involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Kelly Bunch for her selection as a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE FLAT CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Flat Creek Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO THE WINNERS OF THE JOHN F. KUBIK HUMANITARIAN AWARD

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to the winner of this year's John F. Kubik Humanitarian Award, Ms. Vlasta Sneiderger.

Ms. Sneiderger, a regional branch manager for MidAmerica Federal Savings Bank in Berwyn, IL, was presented with the award last month by the Sequin Retarded Citizens Association at their annual award dinner.

Ms. Sneiderger was recognized for her tireless service to the community. The John F. Kubik Award, named for a local newspaper journalist and publisher, was established to embody the community spirit and dedication of its namesake.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Sneiderger on receiving this award and wish her many more years of service to her community.

IN HONOR OF THE GIBBSTOWN FIRE CO.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor the volunteers of the Gibbstown Fire Co. These brave individuals risk their lives every day protecting the citizens of Gibbstown. I commend all of them for their invaluable services to our community.

On May 11, 1996, the company dedicated the opening of their new fire station. The firemen themselves helped with the cost of the building by raising \$140,000. The new station has the capability to house up to five firemen, is completely computerized, and handicapped accessible. Along with the countless hours of training and dedication required to serve as a fireman, this building will help save lives.

I ask my colleagues to stand with me and applaud the selfless efforts of the Gibbstown Fire Co., and all fire companies for that matter. These heroes sacrifice their own lives to make our communities a safer place.

HONORING THE FOSTERVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Fosterville Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

HONORING THE HILB, ROGAL, & HAMILTON CO. OF NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise today in honor of a special group from my district in New Jersey. Over the past 5 years the Hilb, Rogal, & Hamilton Co. of New Jersey has devoted itself in serving our communities. They have generously supported local churches and youth organizations by donating their volunteer services and materials to veterans and young people throughout the State of New Jersey.

Therefore, I congratulate Arthur C. Hanebury, C.P.C.U., president and the entire Hilb, Rogal, & Hamilton Co. for their honorable work and dedication. Hence, I officially proclaim March 16, 1996, to be Hilb, Rogal, & Hamilton Co. Day in the First Congressional District of New Jersey. Speaking not only for my district, but for the State of New Jersey as well, we are very fortunate to have such a charitable group gracing our State.

HONORING THE EAST CLAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the East Clay Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteer, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they