

pay a poll tax or own property to vote. Women and minorities were prohibited from casting the ballot.

Before the Civil Rights Movement, there were areas in the South where 50 to 80 percent of the population was black. Yet, there was not a single registered black voter. In 1964, three young men in rural Mississippi gave their lives while working to register people to vote. Many people shedded blood and some even died to secure voting rights protection for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, over 30 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson proposed that we "eliminate every remaining obstacle to the right and opportunity to vote." Eight months later, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law, making it possible for millions of Americans to enter the political process. The time is long overdue to ensure that every American has the opportunity to exercise this fundamental right.

Our Nation has made progress. The 19th amendment finally gave women the right to vote. The motor voter law made voter registration more accessible to working people. Yet, despite tremendous progress, we still have work to do. I have dedicated my life to ensuring that every American is treated equally and that everyone has the right to register and vote. I ask my colleagues to join me in opening the political process to every American—even those without a home. I urge my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring and supporting passage of the Voting Rights of Homeless Citizens Act of 1997.

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#### HONORING GARRISON KEILLOR

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I take this time today to recognize America's most gifted, thoughtful, and talented entertainer, writer, and storyteller, Garrison Keillor. I recently had the opportunity to welcome Garrison to the Great Lakes State for a wonderful Christmas performance at the University of Michigan.

Born in the eastern Minnesota town of Anoka in 1942, Garrison Keillor has been providing radio listeners with a serious, yet humorous, view of everyday life through his descriptive and creative stories since his undergraduate days at the University of Minnesota. After graduating Garrison went to work for The New Yorker, where he exhibited his writing skills and explored new interests. However, it wasn't until 1974 that Mr. Keillor began a new radio program that has become a weekly tradition for his almost 2 million listeners worldwide.

"Prairie Home Companion," Garrison's variety show creation in 1974, has been a family favorite in my home for over 20 years. Heard on close to 350 public radio stations across the country, with listenership growing, PHC has created a welcome and enjoyable atmosphere reminiscent of radio of years past by providing unique entertainment and strong mental images that only radio can present. Mr. Keillor exhibits a superb knack for story spinning that is refreshing, and a nice change of pace from the pressures we all face in our ev-

eryday lives. Because I grew up in the small town of Edgertown, MN, I cherish the moments I am able to enjoy listening to Garrison's radio imagery and reliving some of the joys of my midwestern youth.

Mr. Keillor's work is not limited to his superb activities over radio airwaves. Readers of The New York Times and The Atlantic are enriched and entertained by the thoughts of Garrison through his contributed articles. He is also the author of numerous books: "We are Still Married," "Happy to be Here," "Lake Wobegon Days," "WLT," "Leaving Home," "The Book to Guys" and the children's book "Cat, You Better Come Home." He has also broken box-office records in performances with orchestras across the country and overseas.

While his work is obviously appreciated by his fans, as evidenced by his loyal listenership, there is also a mutual respect and admiration from his peers. During the first 13 years of PHC, Garrison received the prestigious George Peabody and Edward R. Murrow Awards, along with a medal from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for his work. He has also received two ACE Awards, a Peabody, and a Grammy, along with several Grammy nominations. The Museum of Broadcast Communications has also paid tribute by inducting him into their Radio Hall of Fame.

I especially appreciate Mr. Keillor's discussions of everyday religious activities of Americans. Although this subject is considered taboo by most media performers, Garrison treats religious beliefs as a normal part of human activity, which it truly is for most people. He discusses it intelligently, thoughtfully, and respectfully, but does so with his superb sense of humor. He points out the foibles of human behavior vis a vis people's religious beliefs, yet does so in a way that humorously causes us to reflect on our faith and actions and how they relate to the greater meaning of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Garrison Keillor for his gifted contributions to our society. His dedication, talent, and writing are a true delight for those who have had the opportunity to enjoy his work.

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#### HOUSING AND ILLEGAL ALIENS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which is designed to correct a drafting error which appeared in Public Law 104-208 and which pertains to the ability of ineligible aliens to receive Federal housing assistance.

Amendments made to section 214 of the Housing Act, as incorporated into the Immigration Reform bill adopted last year, were designed to make it more difficult for illegal aliens to receive housing assistance. The fact is, illegals are currently receiving housing assistance and every day newly arrived illegal aliens are applying for assistance. HUD, in the past has been very inconsistent in enforcing the laws designed to prevent this funding from going to ineligible families.

Unfortunately, in attempting to correct the obvious flaws in the law, we made a drafting

mistake and now HUD is threatening to make the proverbial mountain out of the mole hill.

In considering the potential problems large public housing authorities may encounter as they try to implement mandatory verification of citizenship or immigration status of all applicants for housing assistance, the Senate tried to provide an opt-out provision which would allow HA's to grant housing assistance before all verification was completed if the verification process was taking too long or if the waiting period began to result in an unusual amount of vacant units. While House Members were at first reluctant to put this opt-out into statutory language, it was included in the final version of the bill signed into law.

Unfortunately, HUD has now interpreted the opt-out language to mean that HA's could opt-out of the entire section 214. In other words, if HUD's view prevailed, HA's could legally give housing assistance to illegal aliens without any questions being asked. Needless to say, I totally disagree with the interpretation the Department has rendered on the issue. How HUD's lawyers could come to the conclusion that while adopting legislative changes to section 214, which were intended to make it more difficult for illegal aliens who have been determined by the HA's to be ineligible for new or continued assistance, the Congress would then intend to allow the HA's to turn around and not enforce section 214, is beyond me.

For the record, and as the principal author of the section 214 changes, I will again, state that under no circumstance did the Congress intend any interpretation of the legislation which gives any HA the option of following the law as written in section 214.

It is clear to me, as it was to all of the Members involved, that the author of the opt out only intended to allow HA's with high turnover to be able to place families in housing without having to wait for a verification from the INS. Again, it is inconceivable to me how HUD could say that our intent was to allow HA's to completely ignore a law we were trying to tighten.

The effect of HUD's conclusions would suggest that HUD is now telling the HA's that if they do not want to enforce section 214 they do not have to. This means that HUD is telling the HA's that they may now elect to grant housing assistance to illegal aliens or continue to provide assistance to illegals even after they had been determined to be ineligible. I do not believe this is the official position of the Department.

My legislation is intended to clear up any doubt among HUD or the housing authorities.

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#### APPRECIATION TO THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS 3D DISTRICT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I took my oath of office to represent faithfully the people of the 3d district of Massachusetts. As I stood on the floor of the House with my 6-year-old niece, Courtney, I remembered the faces of all the families—the men, women and children—with whom I'd met throughout the 3d district during this past year. The pledge I took

today is to work in support of their dreams and aspirations, not only for today, but for the lives of their children and grandchildren.

To be elected to the House of Representatives is to take on a sacred trust. I feel privileged and deeply appreciative to the people of the 3d Congressional District. And on this day, I honor you and your faith in America and our joint future.

## RURAL HOUSING LOAN SERVICING PRIVATIZATION ACT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Rural Housing Loan Servicing Privatization Act.

Since 1988 the Congress has mandated that the Farmers Home Administration [FmHA], now the Rural Development Administration [RDA] establish an escrow accounting system for the section 502 single-family housing program. It is now 1997 and little progress has been made towards this goal. Since 1990, FmHA has been studying the benefits and advantages of centralizing and contracting out the section 502 program.

A review of efforts to improve the delivery of the section 502 single family-housing program shows that the program is troubled by mismanagement, an unwieldy structure and inferior technology. by FmHA's own admission, it costs \$20 million per year to maintain a system that inadequately monitors the program. Because this system cannot be redesigned to maintain a mortgage escrowing program, the agency must pay an additional \$20 million per year to voucher property taxes for borrowers. This practice is detrimental to both the borrower and the lender.

In September of 1992, studies by the FmHA and GAO concluded that estimated operating savings could be around \$106 million by making these reforms. Unfortunately, trivial action has been taken towards this end at a time when the Congress and the Federal Government are working towards reorganizing and streamlining Government.

The Rural Housing Loan Servicing Privatization Act, will move this process along. This legislation would require the Secretary of Agriculture to implement centralized servicing in the section 502 housing program by entering into contracts with entities "qualified and experience conducting loan servicing."

One important aspect that this bill provides is competition between Federal Government and private entities for borrowers. Allowing private companies to compete for the borrowers currently serviced at the local level would fundamentally change the way the RDA does business. It could also mean reaping the benefits of the competitive marketplace, greater efficiency, increase focus on customer needs, and improving morale.

Given the budget and fiscal restraints facing Congress, I believe now is the time for us to work towards the goal of Rural Housing Loan Servicing Privatization Act. By doing this we would lower delinquency rates, reduce loan losses, have escrow account ability, and lower operating costs.

H.R.—

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural Housing Loan Servicing Privatization Act".

### SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO TRANSFER SERVICING OF SECTION 502 LOANS.

Section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1473) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) TRANSFER OF LOAN SERVICING.—The Secretary shall enter into contracts under section 510(k) providing for the servicing of all loans made by the Secretary under this section, to the extent entities qualified and experienced in conducting loan servicing for residential mortgage loans are available and agree to enter into such contracts."

### SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Section 510 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1480) is amended—

(1) in subsection (j) by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection:

"(k) enter into contracts (having such provisions as the Secretary considers appropriate) with entities qualified and experienced in conducting loan servicing for residential mortgage loans to conduct the servicing for loans made by the Secretary under this title, which shall provide for such entities to receive scheduled periodic payments from borrowers pursuant to the terms of loans, including amounts for any escrow accounts, and making payments of principal and interest and such other payments with respect to the amounts received from borrowers as may be required pursuant to the terms of loans and may provide for such entities to retain a fee for servicing from loan payment amounts received; and"

## A BEACON-OF-HOPE FOR ALL AMERICANS: ANNIE NICHOLSON

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, with the 1996 election behind us, this Nation has completed another cycle for the ongoing democratic process which makes America great. The electoral process and the public officials selected through this process are invaluable assets in our quest to promote the general welfare and to guarantee the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is important, however, Mr. Speaker, that we also give due recognition to the equally valuable contribution of non-elected leaders throughout our Nation. The fabric of our society is generally enhanced and enriched by the hard work done year after year by ordinary volunteer citizens. Especially in our inner city communities which suffer from long public policy neglect, local grassroots leaders provide invaluable service. These are men and women who engage in activities which generate hope. I salute all such heroes and heroines as Beacons-of-Hope.

Annie Nicholson is one of these Beacons-of-Hope residing in the central Brooklyn community of New York City and New York State. Since 1982, Annie has served as case worker for Congressman MAJOR OWENS. She has

gained critically needed emergency services for people in need, and she has recovered thousands of dollars in entitlement funds for citizens who have been unjustly treated by government agencies. Few people know their way through the social service bureaucracy as well as Annie Nicholson.

Ms. Nicholson is a rare combination of case worker and community activist. She is a member of the board of directors of the Paul J. Cooper Human Services Center; a member of the board of the Atlantic Avenue TAP Center; and a member of 100 Women for Major Owens.

Annie Nicholson is a native of Gulfport, MI where she graduated from the 33d Avenue High School. She later attended Kingsboro Community College and received training for manpower and career development counseling; welfare advocacy; and legal service advocacy. Annie is also the proud mother of two sons—Jerry and Rodney Nicholson.

Annie Nicholson is a Beacon-of-Hope for central Brooklyn and for all Americans.

## IN MEMORY OF REVEREND SUMPTER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday I had the chance to join many in my community to both mourn the death and celebrate the life of Rev. Percel Napoleon Sumpter, pastor of Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church. For more than 30 years Reverend Sumpter has been a leader in our community. He worked tirelessly to promote a better understanding between various factions of our community, getting the police to understand our youth and helping young people work with the police, trying to provide job opportunities for those on public assistance, and seeking better housing for the elderly and low income. Our community owes a great deal to Reverend Sumpter.

Like the hundreds of people who attended his homegoing celebration on Saturday, I will miss Reverend Sumpter and all of his wisdom and counsel.

Our entire community conveys to the Sumpter family our deepest sympathy.

I am enclosing below an obituary of Reverend Sumpter that may inspire many of us as we seek to help our own communities.

### OBITUARY

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18-19

The Reverend Dr. Percel Napoleon Sumpter was born in Columbia City, Florida, on December 22, 1925, to his proud parents, the late Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Eva Sumpter. Dr. Sumpter was one of seven children.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Reverend Lazarus Sumpter; two sisters, Mittiean Latson and Rosa Fashaw.

Dr. Sumpter was reared in a Christian home and taught Christian principles by his parents. He confessed Christ and was baptized at an early age and united with Bethel