

streets. During Lincoln's summers, it was well outside of smelly, muddy, crowded, insect-ridden Washington—a genuine country estate built for a local banker in 1840.

The government purchased the property in 1850 to create one of the nation's first homes for veterans. The cottage was renamed at the start of the Civil War to honor Maj. Robert Anderson, the Union Commander of Fort Sumter, the bastion off the South Carolina coast where the first official shots were fired.

Anderson Cottage was the first infirmary at the Soldiers' Home, the first guest house and, in 1954, the first dormitory for female veterans, Ms. Childress said.

The gray-stucco cottage also served as summer White House for presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and Chester A. Arthur. President James Buchanan had his summer residence across the street.

But it's the Lincoln connection that matters most.

"Secretary of War Edwin Stanton did not want Lincoln up here," Ms. Childress said. "He felt they could not protect him out here." Stanton probably was right.

From late June to early November, starting in 1862, Lincoln commuted virtually daily by horseback between the cottage and the White House, accompanied by 20 to 30 cavalymen with their swords drawn. He didn't much care for the escort.

Even so, Ms. Childress said, one night he arrived at the cottage without his stovepipe hat. It had been shot off his head.

Anderson Cottage also is where John Wilkes Booth's first plot against the president was supposed to have been carried out. It was a kidnapping plan that later was abandoned in favor of a bullet.

There, too, Mary Todd Lincoln held seances, trying to connect with the spirit of her son, Willie, who had died in the White House just three months before the Lincolns first came to Anderson Cottage.

This also is where Mrs. Lincoln spent two months recuperating from an 1863 carriage accident. Some historians believe the carriage had been tampered with in an attempt on Lincoln's life, Ms. Childress said.

Mrs. Lincoln refused to be taken to the White House after the accident. "There was an open-door policy at the White House" during the war, Ms. Childress said. "I can only imagine the chaos."

Besides, "Mrs. Lincoln wasn't set up to be a politician's wife, especially a president's wife. What comforted her was this place."

At Anderson Cottage, "Lincoln did not entertain and did as little business as possible," Ms. Childress said. "There is very little doubt in my mind that some of Lincoln's greatest thoughts and greatest writings took place in this house. This is the only place he would have had the solace and the quietude to do that."

As the afternoon deepened into the winter twilight, Ms. Childress walked me across the drive to an ancient copper beech, a gigantic tree with a knobby trunk and a ring of low branches touching the ground. Where each touched, a young tree had sprung up.

"In summer," Ms. Childress said, "it is like a big canopy."

Lincoln took refuge in there, she said. When aides couldn't find him anywhere else, they would look for him under the swooping branches, where he often went to read.

Sometimes he even played there. He climbed this tree a couple of times, she noted—once with his son Tad, another time with Stanton's children.

I was awed. This tree knew Abe Lincoln—it's one of the few living things in this world that did.

Back inside, I saw that the cottage was bigger than it looked—it's a "cottage" only

if you compare it with a mansion such as the White House. The style is Gothic revival, and it still has its lacy white trim, big front porch and heavy interior moldings.

Except for modern furniture and a few partitions, the layout of the house is about the way it was when the Lincolns knew it. The White marble mantelpieces are original. So is the simple wooden banister leading up the stairs from the entry hall. And the shutters folded into the window frames. And the sliding pocket doors on the ground floor—painted shut now, but still there.

I wandered upstairs on my own and easily found the large second-floor room at the front of the house that had been Lincoln's bedfront. This was where he wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The room is sparsely furnished—a Victorian dresser, a contemporary dining-room table ringed with modern chairs. But its appeal lies in its silence, not its furniture. It was dead quiet there the day I visited—genuinely peaceful. The only sound from outside was a plaintive bugle call as veterans lowered the flag for the day.

I could imagine the tall, gaunt president leaning against the fireplace mantel or looking out the windows at the green lawn that still surrounds the cottage. He probably even looked through the same panes of glass.

It hit me then: This place has more to do with Lincoln the president than any other shrine. More than his well-preserved home in Springfield, ILL. More than the frontier hamlet of New Salem, ILL. More than the White House itself.

Here he was not only commander in chief, but also husband, father and human being. No wonder he would take risks to ride out here every chance he got.

The house is structurally sound—always has been and always will be, Ms. Childress said: "We will always take care of it." It's not restored, so it's not pretty, but it could be.

Unfortunately, the Soldiers' Home doesn't have the money to do it. The home has been funded from its beginning by small deductions from enlisted men's pay—now 50 cents a month, plus any fines and forfeitures from disciplinary actions. It has never been supported by taxpayer dollars.

But with the downsizing of the military, less money is coming in because there are fewer soldiers to fund the deductions. The effect has been "devastating," Ms. Childress said, "just devastating."

A rescuer may be coming, however. The United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home is negotiating with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to have the trust take care of the cottage.

Rather than having it become just another Victorian house with antique furniture, Ms. Childress said she hopes it can be used as a learning center for an array of related topics: the Civil War, the effects of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln himself. But all that, she said, is still a long way off.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 219, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONSEQUENCES FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1501) to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders:

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Chairman, people own guns for many reasons. They use them for hunting. They use them for recreational shooting. And they use them for self defense.

About 2 million times a year, people use guns to defend themselves, their families and businesses.

So what does this have to do with trigger locks?

It requires that guns be sold with trigger locks. That doesn't seem unreasonable. In fact about 80% of guns sold today are sold with trigger locks. That seems pretty reasonable.

What's wrong with the amendment is that it requires gun owners to keep a trigger lock on their guns.

It accomplishes this by saying that gun owners are liable for the criminal use of a stolen gun that was stored without a trigger lock.

Someone breaks into your home, steals your gun, robs or kills with it, and you are held responsible.

Mr. Chairman, I hold here a trigger lock. In the small print it says "don't use on a loaded gun."

So what the practical implications of this amendment are:

You can no longer keep a loaded gun in your night stand to defend your family.

When the armed intruder enters your home, here is what you will have to do

Find the key. Unlock the trigger. Remove the trigger lock. Load the gun.

If that crook is armed, you have no chance of defending yourself.

Mr. Chairman, there are two groups who really support this amendment:

Crooks who would invade our homes and harm our families and trial lawyers who would be enriched.

The losers are honest, law abiding citizens who want to defend themselves.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the defeat of this amendment.

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE OF SANDRA K. HOGAN

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to Ms. Sandra K. Hogan, Director of the Legislative and Regulatory Review Office of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Ms. Hogan will retire, July 3rd after 37 years of service to AMS. For 33 of those years, she has not only served 13 AMS Administrators, but has also been a valuable asset to Congress in her role as the Congressional Liaison for AMS.

Ms. Hogan's breadth of knowledge about the extensive programs which AMS administers and her professionalism have always been greatly appreciated by all who have worked with her. You always knew that when you needed to get a clear explanation about a complicated AMS issue or quick assistance in drafting legislation, Ms. Hogan would be able to handle the job. AMS issues certainly do not make that job easy. Ms. Hogan has had to be proficient in issues from Federal Milk Marketing Orders, commodity grading, plant patents, agricultural transportation concerns, commodity purchases for the federal feeding programs, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA), Organic Certification, and the ever increasing number of commodity checkoff programs, to name a few. To illustrate the breadth of her career, about the same time Ms. Hogan started in the job of Congressional Liaison, Congress passed the first industry funded commodity checkoff legislation for the cotton industry, the Cotton Research and Promotion Act. Ms. Hogan has since supervised the enactment of 19 individual checkoff statutes and the most recently enacted "generic statute."

Ms. Hogan is an exceptional breed of public servant who has always put customer service first and luckily for us, she considered Congress to be one of her most important customers. Ms. Hogan's graciousness, professionalism and extensive knowledge of the multitude of AMS programs and history will be sorely missed. I commend her on her distinctive career and wish her well as she returns to her native West Virginia.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes:

Ms. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, guns are out of control.

Tonight, this House should not turn a deaf ear to the families and victims of Littleton, Colorado.

This Congress should strengthen the bipartisan Brady Bill by passing the McCarthy amendment to expand background checks to gun shows.

Five and a half years ago, this body debated the Brady Bill.

The gun lobby and its supporters in this body said it wouldn't work. It wouldn't work, they said, because criminals didn't buy their guns in stores.

Well, they were wrong.

Since that time, over 400,000 illegal gun sales were prevented.

Thanks to the Brady Bill, 400,000 fewer guns are on our streets and in the hands of criminals.

Thankfully, we will never know how many lives would have been lost if those guns had been sold. We will never know how many children would have died if this Congress have failed to take action and pass the Brady Bill.

Mr. Chairman, some have suggested that the waiting period should be changed from three business days to only 24 or 72 hours. But the vast majority of gun buyers complete their checks in a few hours. It is only those who are convicted of felony charges, or have a record of domestic violence or drug abuse who are denied their guns, and we need those extra days to conduct a thorough check.

So now, when the NRA comes back to Congress to argue that we shouldn't close the gun-show loophole, that we shouldn't subject gun buyers at gun shows to the same background check as gun buyers in stores, I urge my colleagues not to be swayed by their deception.

If we accomplish nothing else in the name of gun safety, we must close the gun-show loophole.

I applaud my colleague from New York for her courage and her determination, and I urge my colleagues to support the McCarthy amendment, and Mr. CONYERS' substitute.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE GAINES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Joyce Gaines and her family, from Vallejo, California in my congressional district. Joyce is an amazing mother who believes higher education is a necessity for her children. In order to pay for the enormous expense of her daughter Tiaesha's college education, she worked 3 jobs and commuted 200 miles a day, despite the chronic pain of five ruptured disks in her back from a previous work related injury. Due to her mother's tremendous sacrifices, Tiaesha is the first in her family to receive a college education, with a degree in sociology from Grambling State University. Congratulations to Joyce and Tiaesha Gaines for all your accomplishments.

I have the highest respect for this single mother of four, who put the needs of her daughter and her education ahead of her own. She is a role model for her children and for young people everywhere. It is unfortunate, however, that she had to make such tremendous sacrifices just to pay the price of her child's education. We must do more to make higher education accessible and affordable to all who choose it.

I am not the only one to praise this amazing woman. President Clinton paid tribute to Joyce Gaines in his commencement speech at Grambling State University in Louisiana. I am submitting the following article which appeared in the Vallejo Times-Herald so all of my colleagues can read this inspiring story.

[From the Vallejo Times-Herald, June 3, 1999]

PRESIDENTIAL PRAISE

(By Mary M. Leahy)

For five years, Tiaesha Gaines of Vallejo prayed daily that she and her mother would be recognized at her college graduation for the sacrifices they'd made.

Gaines had no idea God would use the leader of the Free World to answer her.

At her graduation from Grambling State University in Louisiana last week, President

Clinton, in a commencement address, asked 22-year-old Gaines to stand. He then acclaimed her as "a tribute to her mother's love and sacrifice."

"Listen to this," Clinton told the crowd. "Even through the pain of five ruptured disks in her back, Joyce Gaines (Tiaesha's mother) worked three jobs and commuted 200 miles a day to put her daughter, Tiaesha, through Grambling."

Clinton, who used the address to promote a broader pro-family agenda, continued, "Stories like this remind us what people can achieve when they set their minds to it, but they also remind us of how hard it can be to raise a child right, especially today in our very busy society with its very demanding economy."

Tiaesha was videotaping the president from the second row of graduates when she heard him say her name.

"I was thinking, 'That's me! That's me!'" she said. "I was astonished, amazed. I didn't even know he knew who I was. When he said 'five ruptured disks' I knew automatically, 'That's my mom.' When he pointed at me, I got so excited, I jumped up and screamed, 'I love you Mom.' I guess I got in the way of the camera because someone saw it on CNN."

Vallejoan Joyce Gaines was sitting in the stands surrounded by family when she heard Clinton mention her.

"Chills went up and down my spine," she said. "It was so phenomenal having my name mentioned by the President of the United States."

Joyce Gaines had been interviewed three days earlier by a Grambling official, who had heard about the sacrifices she made for her daughter. Although she was told the president might use the information in his speech, she was also told many other parents were interviewed. She put it out of her mind. Surely someone else would be chosen, she thought.

"Exciting things like that never happen to me," she said. "I'm a quiet person who's usually in the background. I didn't tell my daughter because I didn't want her to be disappointed when he didn't mention me."

Joyce Gaines is a single mother of four who endured much to send Tiaesha to Grambling. Tiaesha is the first in her family to get a college education.

Twenty years ago, Joyce Gaines injured her neck and back while pulling cable lines for PG&E. Despite permanent spinal problems, she gave up part of her disability benefits so she could work around the clock and pay Tiaesha's college expenses.

One of Joyce's three jobs required driving 200 miles a day to the outskirts of Sacramento and back. She worked the graveyard shift at a residence facility for Alzheimer's patients. Another job included cleaning up after exotic birds.

"There were a lot of nights I sat up spraying anesthetic spray on my neck to numb the pain. I took anti-inflammatory medication and pain pills. I gave up buying clothes for myself to send her money," she recalled.

When Joyce and Tiaesha talk about it, they inevitably end up crying.

"I knew I'd been through a lot and my mother had been through a lot", Tiaesha said. "When you graduate, you get cards and the dinner and everybody says you did a great job. But nobody really recognizes the nights you stayed up all night typing papers or the nights you couldn't eat because you were waiting on the Western Union to come through."

"Grambling barely has a post office," Tiaesha said. "So if you miss getting the mail Friday, you miss eating on the weekend. You go through so much being away from your family, hoping everybody's thinking about you as much as you're thinking about them."