

crack I made about him for the rest of my life.

I want to say again, as I did today and as Hillary did, that this is one of the most enjoyable and important days of every year to us, because it gives America a chance to recognize our sons and daughters who have enriched our lives, made us laugh, made us think, made us cry, lifted us up when we were down. In so many ways, all of you have touched so many people that you will never know. But in all of them accumulated, you have made America a better place, you've made the world a finer place.

And as we look to the new century, I hope that as time goes on we will be known more and more for things beyond our wealth and power, that go to the wealth and power of our spirit. Insofar as that happens, it will be because of you and people like you. And it was a privilege for all of us to honor you today.

I would like to ask all of you here to join me in a toast to the 1999 winners of the Medal of Arts and the Medal of Humanities. And welcome. Thank you.

ARTS MEDALS

(By Joseph Schumann)

WASHINGTON (AP).—As Aretha Franklin, Steven Spielberg and August Wilson passed through a White House receiving line, President Clinton was overheard telling one guest, "If I could make Keillor laugh, I knew that I had achieved."

Humorist Garrison Keillor, director Spielberg, soul diva Franklin, playwright Wilson, and 14 others, as well as the Juilliard School for the performing arts, were awarded national arts and humanities medals Wednesday, chosen by the White House as American cultural treasures.

The medals go to individuals or institutions supporting the growth and availability of the arts and humanities to the general public.

"It gives America a chance to recognize our sons and daughters who have enriched our lives, made us laugh, made us think, made us cry, lifted us up when we were down," Clinton said at a White House dinner honoring the medal winners.

Earlier in the day, Clinton referred to Keillor—a writer and radio impresario best known for his public radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion"—as "our modern-day Mark Twain."

"With imagination, wit and also with a steel trap mind and deep conviction, Garrison Keillor has brought us together," said the president.

He said Keillor's humor and variety show about life in a fictitious small town in Minnesota "constantly reminds us how we're all connected and how it ought to keep us a little humble."

At a ceremony at Constitution Hall near the White House, Clinton said this year's winners of the National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal "defined in their own unique ways a part of who we are as a people and what we're about as a nation as we enter a new century and a new millennium."

American Indian ballet dancer Maria Tallchief and folk singer Odetta were among the musicians, writers and arts patrons so honored this year.

Odetta's 50 years of performing American folk and gospel reminds "us all that songs have the power to change the heart and change the world," Clinton said.

Tallchief helped put an American stamp on classical ballet, until recent decades a primarily European discipline, Clinton said.

The 1999 winners of the National Medal of the Arts are:

—Arts patron Irene Diamond, who gave more than \$73 million to the arts through foundations and personal gifts.

—Franklin, the "Queen of Soul" who has won 17 Grammys.

—Designer and architect Michael Graves, who created some of century's most admired structures, including the Riverbend Music Center in Cincinnati.

—Odetta, the "Queen of American Folk Music," who created a groundbreaking sound with her voice and guitar.

—The Juilliard School of performing arts in New York, which includes among its alumni comedian-actor Robin Williams, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and jazz and classical trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis.

—Writer and director Norman Lear, who created some of the century's most popular television social comedies, including "All in the Family," "Good Times" and "The Jeffersons."

—Actress and producer Rosetta LeNoire, who boasts a more than 60-year career that includes numerous movies, Broadway productions and TV shows, including "Family Matters" and "Amen."

—Arts administrator Harvey Lichtenstein, who was president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music for 32 years and established it as a leading arts center.

—Singer Lydia Mendoza, who brought Mexican-American music to the public's attention and became famous in Latin America with her signature song, "Mal Hombre."

—Sculptor George Segal, who made a career of sculpting environments, including a life-sized bread line at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington.

—Tallchief, who was the New York City Ballet's longtime prima ballerina.

The 1999 winners of the National Humanities Medals are:

—Librarian Patricia M. Battin, who organized a national campaign to save millions of decaying books by putting their content on microfilm.

—Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and journalist Taylor Branch, whose books, including "Parting the Waters: America in the King Years," made him an authority on the civil rights movement.

—New South scholar Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, who founded the Southern Oral History Project at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

—Keillor, best-selling author and radio host of "A Prairie Home Companion."

—Television anchor and editor Jim Lehrer, host of a public television news program named for him.

—Political philosopher and author John Rawls, renowned for his views on justice, basic rights and equal opportunity.

—Academy Award-winning filmmaker Spielberg.

—Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wilson whose plays, including "The Piano Lesson" and "Fences," explore the black experience in America. Wilson is formerly of St. Paul.

UNITED NATIONS' POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) WORK IN KOSOVO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to the work UNFPA is doing in Kosovo. UNFPA is helping Kosovo rebuild from the war, improving medical care for men, women and children, making deliveries safer, and providing a full range of healthcare services. While the war is over, UNFPA is con-

tinuing its work to improve the quality of life and healthcare for Kosovar Albanians.

Mr. Speaker, to answer critics who are questioning their work and commitment in Kosovo, I submit the following explanation of their work into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

UNFPA'S WORK IN KOSOVO

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is working in Kosovo as part of the United Nations humanitarian and development effort. The United Nations has set up a civil administration in the province of Kosovo, under Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999. UNFPA is working along with other United Nations agencies in Kosovo and is a cooperative partner in the health sector under the leadership of the World Health Organization (WHO). As in all its programmes, UNFPA strictly adheres to internationally agreed human rights conventions and standards and to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994.

UNFPA'S EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATIONS

When the refugee crisis in Kosovo began, UNFPA responded quickly to ensure that those fleeing the province had access to critical reproductive health services. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the lead United Nations agency responsible for refugees, formally asked UNFPA to serve as co-ordinator for reproductive health service. The Fund conducted a rapid needs assessment from 6 to 13 April 1999; sent materials, supplies and equipment for safe delivery, safe blood transfusion, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, management of miscarriages, and treatment for victims of sexual violence. Also, a total of 350,000 packets of sanitary towels and 14,000 pairs of underwear were purchased for distribution during the crisis.

In essence, UNFPA's major contribution to meeting the needs of the Kosovo refugees was to supply emergency reproductive health kits and other reproductive health equipment to refugee camps in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to maternity hospitals throughout Albania. UNFPA procured emergency reproductive health kits to meet the needs of approximately 350,000 people for a period of 3 to 6 months. In Albania, emergency reproductive health kits were supplied to refugee camps in Kukes, Korca and Elbasan and to a total of 10 hospitals and maternity clinics. In addition, UNFPA facilitated the donation of two ultrasound machines from a private company to the Albanian Ministry of Health.

UNFPA's emergency reproductive health supplies included:

Individual clean delivery kits for use if medical facilities are unavailable. The kit includes soap, plastic sheeting, pictorial instructions and a razor blade to cut the umbilical cord;

Delivery equipment—for use by trained personnel to deal with both normal and complicated deliveries, as well as referral-level equipment to be used in hospitals to perform Caesarean sections and to resuscitate mothers and babies;

Sexually transmitted diseases (STD) kit—intended to diagnose and treat STDs and explain how to prevent contraction;

Safe blood transfusion equipment;

Then, in early May, UNFPA sent an expert on the treatment of sexual violence and war trauma to assess the needs of women victims of such violence. Interviews with them showed that a considerable degree of sexual violence had occurred and that there were urgent needs for the treatment and counselling of women, their families and communities. UNFPA set up a training programme for health and relief workers of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with

refugees and for international and national medical staff in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

REHABILITATION OF KOSOVO

Following the cessation of hostilities and the return of refugees to Kosovo, UNFPA, along with other United Nations agencies, quickly established an office in Pristina, the capital of the province. As part of the civil administration authorized by the United Nations Security Council, UNFPA is a member of the Joint Civil Commission on Health, which is responsible for developing health policy and which includes representatives from the United Nations and from all of the communities in Kosovo. UNFPA heads the Reproductive Health Policy Task Force of the Joint Civil Commission and the Reproductive Health Coordination Committee, which includes representatives of all the United Nations bodies, NGOs and bilateral aid agencies working in reproductive health. The Policy Task Force has worked with the Kosovo Institute of Public Health, a local organization, to draw up a Reproductive Health Policy, which will guide the work of all organizations as they undertake the rehabilitation of the province.

UNFPA'S PRIORITY AREAS

The main concern of the United Nations in the area of health is to help reestablish the public health system in the province in order to meet the health needs of all the people of Kosovo. The overall needs throughout the province are overwhelming, and most of the health infrastructure has not been properly maintained; much of it was destroyed or removed during the recent hostilities. Equipment in hospitals is either obsolete and/or broken, including such basic equipment as washing machines and incubators for premature babies. Many health facilities have been left in decay, with broken windows, useless heating systems, and little or no functioning equipment.

The maternity, obstetric and gynecological clinic in Pristina delivers some 30 to 40 babies per day; it is on target to deliver 12,000 babies in the coming year, which would give it the largest number of deliveries of any hospital in Europe. It is achieving this with one broken-down washing machine and a shortage of sheets, gowns, incubators and ultrasound machines. On particular busy days, it does not have enough cribs in which to put the newborns, even when they are doubled up. Many of the deliveries are premature, born to women who suffered great trauma and stress during the hostilities. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that almost 50 percent of premature infants born in the Pristina Hospital do not survive. Other problems related to the effects of the hostilities are a higher-than-normal incidence of miscarriages and still births, both of which put the lives of mothers at risk. Conditions are equally poor, if not worse, in maternities and health centres outside Pristina. In light of the above, it is essential to upgrade the equipment of the maternity at the Pristina Hospital and in other regions of Kosovo, as a critical first step in safeguarding maternal and child health within the overall context of the rehabilitation of the health system of Kosovo.

UNFPA is playing a key role in the area of reproductive health by helping to assess reproductive health conditions and needs; by supplying urgently needed equipment, materials, and medicines for hospitals, primary health facilities and mobile clinics; by providing training and support for health staff; and by supporting health information and education programmes. UNFPA has begun work with its other partners in Kosovo in drawing up a standard reproductive health-training curriculum for health workers in

the province. It is designed to raise their awareness of reproductive health needs and to provide basic and refresher training in basic reproductive health skills.

The issue of sexual and other violence against women in Kosovo is a very serious issue. UNFPA has sent an expert on sexual violence to the province to report on ways in which the health system and health workers in Kosovo can address these issues in a culturally sensitive manner. Another component of UNFPA's strategy in the area of health, education and community services focuses on mental health, particularly the mental health of women. Violations of human rights and human dignity have been used as a systematic way of conducting war and have left profound scars that may not disappear. Victims of torture or violence, be it physical, sexual or psychological continue to suffer from significant trauma. To provide counselling and to prevent ostracism and exclusion of the victims from their own communities, UNFPA will continue to help strengthen local community capacity to provide care and support to women and men in distress.

There is an urgent need in Kosovo for demographic and health status of Kosovo since the return of the refugees in June this year. Given the new situation, all prior census and other data—if they can be found—are obsolete. All relief organizations working in the province are looking for such information to use in their operations. To that end, UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) jointly organized a preliminary mission to assess the feasibility of a cluster sample population survey in Kosovo. The two organizations have developed a proposal for a survey of about 9,500 households. The results of the survey will be made available to all interested agencies and to the public.

Therefore, as priority measures for emergency relief and rehabilitation in Kosovo, UNFPA is preparing to undertake three crucial projects in the short term: upgrade the equipment of the maternity/OB-GYN department of Pristina hospital, and to provide basic equipment and supplies to maternities and "birthing centers" elsewhere in the province; strengthen local capacity to identify members of the community who need psycho-social support and to provide care and support to these women and men; and undertake an urgently needed demographic, socio-economic and reproductive health survey of the province.

TRIBUTE TO DARRELL W. OPFER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong contributions that Representative Darrell W. Opfer has made to Ohio and more specifically, the Fifty-Third Ohio House District. For the last seven years, Darrell has been the epitome of a public servant in the Ohio House of Representatives. He works tirelessly to represent both Ohio and his district to the best of his ability, and for this we are greatly indebted. On behalf of Ohio's lawmakers and citizens, I am pleased and honored to pay tribute to this outstanding leader.

Born and raised Elmore, Ohio, Darrell has been a resident of Ottawa County and the Fifty-Third district his entire life. After completing bachelor's and master's degrees from

Bowling Green State University, he entered the Peace Corps as a volunteer school teacher, instructing schoolchildren in East Africa. Upon his return, he spent sixteen years teaching high school government and social studies at Genova High School.

Darrell began his political career by serving as an Ottawa County Commissioner for ten years. During this time, he helped form the Ottawa County Visitors Bureau and the Community Improvement Corporation. These organizations have improved the quality of life in his district, as each implemented programs to create more jobs and support local businesses.

Darrell was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, where during his first term he became known for his bipartisanship. During his tenure in the Ohio General Assembly, he was a member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Finance and Appropriations Committee, Local Government and Townships Committee and Veteran's Affairs Committee. He was also the ranking minority member of the Agriculture and Development Subcommittee. In his last two terms in office, he was dedicated to bringing about electric deregulation, attempting to meet the needs of schools, local government, industry, customers, and public utilities. Through his career Darrell passed a remarkable amount of legislation, personally sponsoring 30 bills and co-sponsoring 718 others. During his years of service in Columbus, he never missed a session of the Ohio House of Representatives and never missed a vote. In 1991, he earned the Outstanding Chief Elected Official Award, presented by Ohio Training Directors Council. His steadfast dedication in representing his district as an Ohio House Member was only interrupted by state mandated term limits.

Darrell has always been wise counsel to other elected officials and community leaders, quietly building coalitions on issues, bringing various points of view together in discussions, and offering his expertise with myriad concerns. Throughout his years as a Commissioner and State Representative, I have sought his advice many times and know him to be a man possessed of great skill and a wealth of knowledge. He has truly been an invaluable resource for all Ohioans and for us in Northwest Ohio.

Upon Darrell Opfer's retirement from the State House, the prosperity of Ottawa County and jobs for its residents continue to drive his ambitions. After careful consideration, he accepted the position of director of Ottawa County's economic development program. He plans to use his government, utility, and business acumen to further economic development throughout Ottawa County.

Walter Lippman once said, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on. . . . The genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of genius, can deal with successfully." The work of Darrell Opfer has made out state a better place to live. On behalf of the entire Ohio community, I would like to thank you, Darrell, for your loyalty and service to our state and your district. We will certainly miss your skills as a legislator, but you know that you will continue your dedication to leadership and service in your new position. Good luck and God bless.