

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA ALLEMON

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Andrea Allemon who will be named Troy's Distinguished Citizen of the Year by Leadership Troy at their annual community awards banquet on November 4, 1999.

Andrea Allemon's dedication to her community has been extraordinary. As a result of her leadership in the Boys and Girls Club's Taste of Troy to the Troy Daze Festival, almost every event I attend in Troy has Andrea's presence.

As a dedicated parent, Andrea founded the Parent Teacher Organization at Smith Middle School and served as its president. She was also responsible for initiating the school clinics at Smith Middle and Athens High. The Athens All-Night Party was another one of Andrea's start-up events which she supervised for five years.

In her neighborhood, Andrea Allemon has served as an officer, member of the Board of Directors and New Members Chair for the Emerald lakes Village Homeowners Association. She personally welcomes each new family to the neighborhood. Serving as a "foster mom" to an individual who lives in adult foster care, she has opened her home sharing holiday feasts for the past 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a remarkable woman for her energy and enthusiasm during her 31 years of dedication and devotion to the people of her community. Andrea Allemon is indeed a distinguished citizen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 20, 1999 I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and therefore missed rollcall vote 515 (a Journal vote) and rollcall vote 519 (Mink amendment to H.R. 2). I want the record to show that had I been present in this Chamber I would have voted "yea" on each of these recorded votes.

I also missed rollcall vote 516 (Motion to order the previous question on H.R. 2670), rollcall vote 517 (Adoption of the rule for H.R. 2670) and rollcall vote 518 (Conference Report on H.R. 2670).

I want the record to show that if I had been able to be present in this Chamber when these votes were cast, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 516, rollcall vote 517, and rollcall vote 518.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 25, I was unavoidably detained and

missed rollcall votes Nos. 533–536. Had my vote been recorded, it would have been in the following manner: Rollcall vote No. 533 (on approving the journal), "aye"; rollcall vote No. 534 (to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 754), "aye"; rollcall vote No. 535 (to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2303), "aye"; rollcall vote No. 536 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 194), "aye".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, on August 5, 1999, I asked unanimous consent on the House floor to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 850, the Security and Freedom through Encryption (SAFE) Act. However, as a result of House Report 106–117 being filed with the House Clerk, House rules prohibited further action on the bill. Consequently, my name was not removed as a cosponsor. Please let the RECORD show that it was my intent to no longer be listed as a cosponsor of H.R. 850.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN J. INGHAM, DISTRICT DIRECTOR, BUFFALO OFFICE, UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit for the RECORD a proclamation, which I offer with the distinguished members of the New York Congressional Delegation: Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN; Senator CHARLES E. SCHUMER; Congressman JOHN LAFALCE; Congressman AMO HOUGHTON and Congressman THOMAS REYNOLDS on the occasion of the retirement of John J. Ingham from his numerous years of government service with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, On November 2, 1999, John J. Ingham will complete 40 years and 9 months of government service with the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service, including military time, with his last 10 years as District Director of Buffalo, New York; and

Whereas, During Mr. Ingham's government career he rose through the ranks at the INS Buffalo District as Immigration Inspector, Immigration Examiner, Supervisory Examiner, Assistant District Director for Examinations, Deputy District Director to his present position as District Director; and

Whereas, No District Director has been more proactive and more vocal at promoting his district's agenda. Mr. Ingham ushered in a golden age for the Buffalo District of the INS during the 1990's; and

Whereas, Under Mr. Ingham's guidance the Buffalo District developed a national reputation for excellence. Through his direction the INS moved its local operations into a brand new state of the art facility in 1995. In 1998 the Batavia Federal Detention Facility

was completed with over four hundred beds to increase the ability of the District to deal with immigration detainees. Furthermore, one immigration Judgeship was reestablished and two more added to the Buffalo District allowing it to be more efficient. Other noteworthy projects came to fruition under Mr. Ingham's direction, including remodeled or newly constructed inspection facilities at Niagara Falls, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal; and

Whereas, Under Mr. Ingham's leadership the Buffalo District has become commonly referred to as the "District that works." INS Buffalo is noteworthy for the operational achievements developed during Mr. Ingham's tenure. His employees will be his legacy as they lead the Service into the next millennium as intuitive, responsible, and productive members of the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Members of the 106th Congress of the United States of America on this the twenty-ninth day of October in the year of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine proclaim their gratitude and admiration to John J. Ingham for his forty years of commitment and dedication to the United States of America. Proclaimed by: Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN; Senator CHARLES E. SCHUMER; Congressman JACK QUINN; Congressman AMO HOUGHTON; Congressman JOHN J. LAFALCE; Congressman THOMAS REYNOLDS.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF 4-H CLUBS

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation "recognizing the contributions of 4-H clubs and their members to voluntary community service."

4-H clubs serve as outstanding youth development programs for the youngsters of rural and urban America. They give our young people great opportunities and skills. They provide a sense of accomplishment through a job well done. 4-H provides career-oriented education and after-school safe havens.

But in a larger sense, participation in 4-H has effects far beyond the students participating. By instilling in the youth of today, values and morals which will give them the power to make ethical decisions. 4-H helps develop the leaders of this nation's tomorrow. The ability to recognize and participate, voluntarily, in community service activities is perhaps one of the greatest ethics we can teach our youth.

Volunteering to help others is a part of the American culture. American history is full of people who not only recognized that the world is full of need, but also did something about it. They decided to make their communities better places. In today's seemingly self-oriented society it is refreshing to see young people recognize the needs of others and volunteer their time to benefit those who need help.

The young people of 4-H programs across the nation have set an example of unwavering cheerful service to benefitting the welfare of others. These youth are truly displaying leadership through service to their fellow man and I take great pride in recognizing their contributions to building better communities. We

should follow their example and become involved, the opportunities are boundless.

TRIBUTE TO JIM O'CONNOR

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a distinguished 1998–99 White House fellow—Jim O'Connor, a resident of my 5th Congressional District in Chicago.

Mr. O'Connor is a management consultant at A.T. Kearney in Chicago. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Government and English, as well as his Juris Doctor, from Georgetown University. Additionally, he received an M.B.A. from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, where founded the Kellogg Corps, which sends teams of MBA students to developing communities around the world. Mr. O'Connor served as the first American volunteer teacher at a rural Catholic school in Lebowa, South Africa. He has also founded two organizations—the Field Associates, a group of young adults who promote Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, and the Associates Board of the Big Shoulders Fund, which involves young adults in advisory and fundraising roles with needy Catholic schools in Chicago's inner city. Mr. O'Connor also finds time to participate on several boards, including the Guild Board of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Chicago Community Trust Young Leader's Fund, and Georgetown University's Governing Board.

Since 1965, the White House Fellowship Program has honored outstanding citizens who demonstrate excellence in community service, leadership, and professional achievements. It is the country's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development. White House Fellows are chosen on the merit of remarkable achievement early in their career and the evidence of growth potential. Every year, 500 to 800 applicants nationwide compete for 11 to 19 fellowships. Mr. O'Connor has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to public service with his involvement in many community-based organizations. His tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Chicago have earned him the honor of participating in this prestigious fellowship.

As a White House Fellow for the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Mr. O'Connor is responsible for assisting the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund in performance-measure development and planning, as well as assisting with a Congressional analysis regarding the Hedge Fund Industry. He also worked on a creation of BusinessLINC, a secretarial initiative created to enhance partnering between woman-owned minority business and larger corporate entities. Other projects include an economic development initiative for Washington, D.C., and an analysis of the emerging trends in electronic commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Jim O'Connor for a noteworthy record of community service and professional and academic excellence. The people of Chicago are the beneficiaries of Jim O'Connor's hard work and good citizenship.

OUR NATION'S HOUSING CRISIS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, families in America are facing a housing crisis. Unfortunately, at a time of unprecedented economic growth and record unemployment, many are a paycheck away from losing their home.

A report released by Catholic Charities confirms that sad truth. Cardinal Francis George, the Catholic Archbishop of Chicago, has sounded the alarm that, despite being in the midst of an economic boom, the housing needs of low-income families in Chicago and Illinois are unmet.

The report found that 245,000 low-income renters in the Chicago area are competing for 155,000 apartments with affordable rent. More disturbing, the report also found that most of those earning minimum wage spend more than two-thirds of their income on rent.

Using the phrase "housing crisis" too often may blunt its effectiveness, but there is no other way to describe what is happening in our cities and communities. Sadly though, no matter how many times we say it on the House floor, in committee hearings, in community meetings with our constituents and local elected officials, and in news conferences, there are some that choose to turn a deaf ear.

That is why I submit this Chicago Tribune editorial describing the efforts of Cardinal George on behalf of families in Chicago and Illinois. I am hopeful that in addition to his voice, we can break through and find a permanent solution to the housing needs of all families.

THE CARDINAL LEADS ON HOUSING

Unemployment is below 5 percent, new housing starts are at record levels and nearly two-thirds of American families now live in their own homes.

So what's all this talk about a housing crisis?

It's not just talk. It's a growing reality for millions of low- and middle-income working families. For them, the recent boom at the top has meant fewer rooms at the bottom.

To some this may sound like left-liberal cant. (Has there ever not been a crisis in affordable housing?) But the problem will not be so easily dismissed now that it has been described at length by Cardinal Francis George, the Catholic archbishop of Chicago.

By placing his personal stamp on a new report by Catholic Charities here, Cardinal George has sounded a wake-up call to those who thought the economic boom had solved the region's low-income housing squeeze. It has not.

Using data from several official sources, the report estimates there are 245,000 low-income renters in the Chicago area competing for just 115,000 apartments with rents deemed "affordable" (less than 50 percent of a family's monthly income). Statewide, some 400,000 people are in families spending more than half their incomes on rent and utilities. Those earning just the minimum wage routinely spend more than three-quarters of their take-home pay on a typical two-bedroom apartment, leaving precious little for food and other necessities. Catholic Charities says its phone lines are buzzing with calls for emergency assistance and its homeless shelters are at capacity.

Several factors are behind this pinch amid plenty. While low mortgage rates and gen-

erous tax deductions have fueled the upscale market, the economics of rental housing—for both landlord and tenant—remain lackluster by comparison. Then there's galloping gentrification, whereby close-in Chicago neighborhoods are redeveloped for wealthier professionals while less-affluent families go packing. Meanwhile, the Chicago Housing Authority is demolishing its dysfunctional high-rises and sending thousands of impoverished tenants into the private market armed with federal rent vouchers.

Calling the housing squeeze a threat to family stability across the region, Cardinal George is urging action on several fronts. He wants Congress and the Illinois legislature to fully fund proven subsidized housing programs. He wants local municipalities—and not just Chicago—to redouble efforts to include affordable units in their housing mix. And importantly, he wants all Chicagoans, including landlords, to be more accepting of members of racial and cultural minorities moving into their neighborhoods.

Good points all. Their implementation would extend the world's most productive housing market to families that have, so far, been untouched by its bounty.

CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON ARMENIA'S PARLIAMENT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathy and support for the people of Armenia in the wake of yesterday's tragic attack on the Armenian parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Armenia has been a model of democracy and market reform in the post-Soviet world. This past summer, Armenia held open and competitive national elections. Just this past week, it held exemplary local elections. Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian, Parliament Speaker Karen Demirchian, and the six other officials who were slain yesterday were leaders of this transition to democracy. They were also leaders in combating corruption, bolstering the economy, and establishing peace in their troubled region. Their senseless deaths present a tragic loss to Armenia—and to freedom and democracy worldwide.

I urge my colleagues to join me in offering my deepest condolences to the Armenian people, and my strongest support to their ongoing efforts to bring democracy, peace, and stability to their nation.

LEGISLATION REGARDING ZOHREH FARHANG GHAFAROKHI

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing private legislation today that would grant my constituent, Zohreh Farhang Ghahfarokhi, permanent residency in the United States.

In 1984, Zohreh Farhang Ghahfarokhi's husband, an Iranian citizen, brought her and their young daughter, Shahrzad, on a business trip to the United States. The trip was successful