

Plat of the Village of Bergland, giving birth to a community that was located within the 18,000 acres of timberland Bergland had obtained. He had already constructed a sawmill and a short-line railroad into his timber holdings, and the new town's location along the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railroad ensured his wood products would find distant markets.

The town of Bergland was born at a unique time in Michigan's lumbering history. Most of the virgin strand of giant white pine had been harvested, but the land Gunlek Bergland purchased was far enough away from the Lake Michigan shore that it had remained uncut. This North Woods stood at town's edge. Charles Freed, a 12th grade graduate of Bergland's first school, built in 1904, once reminisced about this timber stand, saying, "Within a few feet of the rear of the building there stood a forest which had not yet been touched by the ax."

It's quite amazing, Mr. Speaker, when you consider that within the 20th Century and right in the Midwest, a community was being built on a forest frontier. It would not be frontier for long, because 20th Century changes were having an impact on the lumber industry. Witness the fact that Gustav Bergland built an actual town for families, which in itself was a change from the tradition of the 1800s, when lumberjacks spent all winter living in isolated lumber camps to do their work. In the 19th Century, logs were floated down rivers to communities like my home town of Menominee, where sawmills cut them and shipped the lumber south by water to growing cities like Milwaukee and Chicago. In the dynamic new 20th Century, railroads reached inland to small communities like Bergland to bring out wood products. Hardwood was now needed by the Upper Peninsula mines, and the growing auto industry needed lumber, too, as much as 250 board feet—the equivalent of a 27-inch diameter, eight-foot-long log—for each vehicle produced.

Those boom days are gone, but Bergland and its forest heritage remain. Forest products are still an important regional industry, a managed industry that recognizes northern Michigan's forests as a renewable resource. Bergland stands surrounded by the million-acre Ottawa National Forest, an area that is also rich in recreational opportunities.

Residents and former residents of Bergland will gather in July to celebrate this history, and they will also honor some of the community's oldest residents. Among those to be honored are Walter Borseth, 90, and Stan Lackie, 85, both of whom were born of Bergland pioneering families and have spent their entire lives in Bergland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our House colleagues to join me in wishing the best to the people of Bergland on this celebration of their centennial, and in saying a hearty, "Well Done!" to the Bergland Centennial Planning Committee of Gay Frulik, Junior Gray, Winnie Borseth, and Tom Borseth. We hope many former Bergland residents are drawn back home for this celebration, so that families may be reunited, old friendships renewed, and a remarkable quality of life rediscovered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, from June 17 through June 19, I was in London, England participating in a Government Reform National Security Subcommittee meeting on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote number 230, "yes" on recorded vote number 231, "yes" on recorded vote number 232, "yes" on recorded vote number 233, "yes" on recorded vote number 234, "yes" on recorded vote number 235, "yes" on recorded vote number 236, "yes" on recorded vote number 237, "yes" on recorded vote number 238, and "yes" on recorded vote number 239.

H. CON. RES. 415, RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives passed a resolution that recognizes National Homeownership Month. Democrats and Republicans are united in their support for homeownership. However, we should not fool ourselves by claiming that this resolution is going to solve our affordable housing crisis.

We need to back up our words with action. Housing is not a top priority of this House or the Administration. HUD provides down payment assistance through several of its programs, yet without sufficient resources HUD will not be able to accomplish its homeownership goals. In fact in real dollars, HUD's budget is one third of what it was during the Ford administration. This is unacceptable.

Yesterday the Financial Services committee marked-up the "Housing Affordability for American Act of 2002." Several members of the majority voted against an amendment to create a national affordable housing trust fund. The approved amendment creates a trust fund that utilizes FHA surplus funds. By creating a housing trust fund we can provide the necessary resources to build and preserve 1.5 million units of rental housing over the next 10 years.

Also, predatory lending continues to be a serious problem for homeowners. The Coalition for Responsible Lending estimates that homeowners lose \$9.1 billion annually due to predatory loans. Predatory lending is especially a problem in the subprime market. People who have trouble getting access to conventional mortgages often use the subprime market for mortgage assistance.

Predatory lenders disproportionate prey on the elderly and minorities. In 2000, HUD completed a study that found that borrowers in upper income African American neighbor-

hoods, who would easily qualify for conventional, low rate loans, were twice as likely as homeowners in low-income white neighborhoods to receive subprime refinance loans. In Chicago the number of high interest loans rose 3,685 between 1993 and 1999. To combat this problem, I and several of my colleagues have introduced anti predatory lending legislation. Regrettably, none of our bills have been given consideration by the Republican House leadership. Simply supporting homeownership is not enough. We must act to make sure the people are able to keep their homes as well.

Homeownership is expensive and it is difficult for people with low incomes to own a home. People in Chicago and across the country need affordable housing whether it is a home or an apartment. In Chicago, we're short 150,000 units of affordable housing. Nationally, there has been a 37 percent increase in the number of people seeking emergency shelters in the past year and five and a half million people are facing the worst housing crisis in the United States. That is why I have introduced H.R. 2999 "The First Things First Act." My legislation puts tax breaks for the rich on hold until we address our nation's housing crisis and other critical needs. This resolution is only effective if we take strong actions to make affordable housing a reality for America's families.

HONORING PASTOR T.R. WILLIAMS, SR.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Reverend Theodore Roosevelt (T.R.) Williams, Sr., on his 25 years of exceptional service to the New Faith Church located at 4315 West Fuqua Street, Houston, Texas. On June 23, 2002, Reverend Williams will be joined by his family, friends, and the congregation of New Faith Church to celebrate his 25th anniversary.

Born in Alexandria, Louisiana on July 26, 1945, Theodore Roosevelt Williams was one of five children born to Nathaniel and Violet Williams. The Williams' established an extraordinary foundation for their children centered around developing their faith in God. Reverend Williams often recalls how his parents would awaken him along with his brothers and sisters on Sunday morning for family prayer and fondly speaks of his parents' willingness to sacrifice their desires to ensure that their children's needs were met.

After receiving his degree from Southern University in 1966, Rev. Williams soon found himself being called to the ministry. On December 2, 1966, he preached his first sermon at Greater Saint Lawrence Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend Williams accepted his first pastoral position at Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church in rural Louisiana in 1968 and his second at Loyal Baptist Church beginning in 1972 and resigned in 1977. After his resignation, Reverend Williams organized New Faith Church on February 27, 1977, where he currently presides as Senior Pastor.

Since its inception, New Faith's priorities have been in accord with God's directives,

and have made tremendous strides in the efforts to improve the quality of life in the Houston area. Under the leadership of Reverend Williams, the congregation has grown to more than 3,000 members with facilities on more than ten acres of property. Throughout his tenure as senior pastor, Reverend Williams, has a number of accomplishments that highlight his commitment and dedication to serving God, his congregation and the Houston community. Some of his many achievements include, the development of the ministerial staff concept, the Family Life Center, the Crisis Counseling Center, and the Violet P. Williams Educational Building. Reverend Williams has implemented more than twenty-five ministries and provides leadership to a number of dedicated and talented staffers.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his 34 years in the ministry, Reverend Williams' intelligence, enthusiasm, and integrity has served his congregations well. He brings a tireless energy, an unflagging drive, and an unparalleled passion to each of his endeavors, whether it's as a Pastor, a civic leader, or friend. His tremendous strength over the years is a testimony to the success of his efforts to address the needs of his congregations and community.

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY
PATROL OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to Sgt. James E. Closson of Marshall, MO, who recently was named Officer of the Year by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He has distinguished himself, the Missouri Highway Patrol, and the State of Missouri with dedicated service.

Sgt. Closson has been serving and protecting the citizens of Missouri for 28 years. He is respected by the members of Troop A for his diligence in ensuring assignments are met and completed without fail. His years in the Troop A area and as the zone sergeant of Zone 10 in Saline County have established him as a leader in the community.

Sgt. Closson is the son of a distinguished former Missouri Highway Patrolman, A.F. Closson.

Mr. Speaker, Sgt. James E. Closson has been dedicated to serving and protecting the

citizens of Missouri for 28 years and is well deserving of this prestigious award. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Sgt. Closson and his wife, Jenny, all the best.

THE TREATMENT OF GIRLS AND
WOMEN BY THE BURMESE ARMY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand firm against the impunity with which the girls and women of Burma are raped, tortured, beaten, and killed as part of a systematic campaign by the Burmese army to terrorize and subjugate its people.

This week, a report was released detailing the heinous acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence carried out on the women and girls of the Shan State on the Burmese border with Thailand. Compiled from interviews with brave victims who would talk about their story, the report serves merely as a microcosm of the ongoing and endemic commitment by the Burmese army to thwart resistance and opposition by officially condoning the use of rape as a weapon of war against its civilian population.

Mr. Speaker, the reports that have surfaced describe how the overwhelming majority of these rapes are being carried out by officers, and usually in front of their own troops. Girls and women are being beaten mutilated, suffocated—tortured. A quarter of these rapes result in death, and in some incidences the victim's body is publicly displayed to send out a message of terror and fear to local peoples. These crimes against humanity are often times even taking place within military bases where some women have been detained for up to 4 months—only to be raped, even gang raped, repeatedly by soldiers.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN FRED "POT
LICK" CLAY CUTRER, JR.

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Captain Fred "Pot Lick" Clay Cutrer, Jr., United States

Air Force, of Mississippi, who was laid to rest on Thursday, June 6, 2002. Captain Cutrer had been missing in action in South Vietnam since August 5, 1964. Captain Cutrer was the first pilot to be killed after President Johnson's escalation of American involvement in Vietnam due to the Gulf of Tonkin. At the time Captain Cutrer's plane went down he was only 29 years old.

Captain Cutrer and his navigator, Lieutenant Leonard Lee Kaster of Massachusetts, were flying a B-57B Canberra on August 5, attempting to land at a nearby base, when they were shot down by Viet Cong soldiers. Unfortunately, a rescue or recovery mission could not be attempted, as the area where the plane went down was deemed too dangerous. Both men were listed as Missing in Action and their names were on the Vietnam Wall when it was dedicated in Washington, D.C., in 1982. Captain Cutrer's name can be found on Panel 1E, Line 60.

In August 1992, the Defense Department's POW/Missing Personnel Office found the crash site with the help of a Vietnamese native who saw the plane as it crashed in Long Khan Province. Follow-up visits led to an excavation in March and April 1997 and recovery of Captain Cutrer's remains. In January 1998, Captain Cutrer's family was notified that his dog tags and remains had been found. He was given a full military burial at Arlington Cemetery on Thursday, June 6, 2002. Since Lieutenant Kaster's remains were never found, he was buried with Captain Cutrer. He and Lieutenant Kaster were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Captain Cutrer grew up in Mississippi in a loving family and alongside great friends. He was married to Shirley Cutrer, who was a First Lieutenant who was honorably discharged as an Air Force nurse in 1962 after becoming pregnant with the couple's first of two sons, Fred III. She died September 10, 1998, when her car collided with an 18-wheeler in Pennsylvania. Later this summer, she will be exhumed and buried beside her husband's plot.

On Thursday, June 6, many of Captain Cutrer's friends and family met at Arlington to finally lay to rest their beloved friend and family member. Among those attending the funeral were Captain Cutrer's two sons, Fred III and Dan, his brother Hugh Molse Cutrer and his two sisters, Lillie Cutrer Gould and Connie Cutrer Blair of Simsbury, CT.

Captain Fred "Pot Lick" Clay Cutrer, Jr. is a true American hero and I urge my colleagues to stand today to honor his memory.