

Mr. Speaker, it is morally unacceptable for the richest nation in the history of the world to tolerate this continued housing crisis which blights the lives of so many American families simply because of a mis-allocation of resources. I applaud the National Housing Conference and its member organizations for this important statement and I hope that all of our colleagues will read and assimilate it so that we can act along the lines the Conference has recommended.

[From the United Voice for Housing]

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE NEARS CRISIS PROPORTIONS

WASHINGTON, DC.—The following statement was released today by the National Housing Conference (NHC):

As we begin the new year, this nation continues to face a serious affordable housing situation of near crisis proportions. Based upon the most recent data, approximately one out of every seven (13 million) American families has a critical housing need, including some 4 million low- and moderate-income working families. In addition to homeless and very low-income families who experience the most severe affects of an inadequate supply of affordable housing, today many teachers, police officers, fire fighters, retail sales clerks and nurses are also finding it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to find decent affordable housing for their families. According to a recent NHC study, janitors and retail sales clerks, for example, are all but shut out of the nation's largest housing markets..

While reports of the resilience of the housing industry during the current economic slow-down provide hope and support for the nation's economy as a whole, we should not be lulled into a false sense of accomplishment when it comes to the housing needs of low- and moderate-income families. Today, there is an affordable housing shortage which is not being addressed adequately. We have not budgeted the necessary resources to address the current shortage of affordable housing and there are barriers in far too many communities across the nation which inhibit the development of new affordable housing.

To make lasting and meaningful progress on this issue in the new year and beyond, there must be an immediate and demonstrated public commitment at all levels to address the full measure of the nation's affordable housing problem. At present, there are simply not enough resources to support affordable ongoing housing efforts. The lack of political will to increase funding to encourage and provide incentives to produce new affordable housing has and will continue to force families to make unacceptable choices in order to find adequate shelter.

Our goal in the new year should be simple and straightforward (to increase the overall supply of affordable housing). To accomplish this goal, there must be vigorous leadership at the federal level as well as concerted efforts at the state and local level to break down barriers which constrain efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing.

A significant increase in direct federal funding for affordable housing, coupled with a more responsive and progressive use of the nation's tax code, will be necessary in order to expand, and in some cases execute more effective affordable housing strategies at the state and local level. Increased federal resources must, however, be coupled with additional state and local resources, private sector incentives and local housing policies which are designed specifically to preserve existing and produce new affordable housing opportunities.

We have the tools, the know-how and the experience to meet our nation's affordable housing needs. Our housing needs are well documented and have been with us for many years. We know that good housing is essential to support the health and well-being of our families and our communities, and we also know that our continuing failure to address the full measure of our nation's affordable housing needs will have a direct impact on other national concerns including the environment, transportation, access to jobs and urban sprawl.

In the year ahead, much will be made of the need to make hard choices, the need to focus on larger national priorities and of tight budgetary constraints. For those who have fought for years to encourage necessary funding for responsible housing policies, this will be nothing new. What must be made clear, however, is that our collective failure to act to meet the nation's affordable housing needs in a comprehensive fashion over many years has only increased the need for new affordable housing to near crisis proportions. Our failure to address this situation again this year will hurt hard-working families and will continue to leave behind those who need our help the most.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and the ongoing investigation of its policies and practices under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. The administration should aggressively pursue this investigation and work toward resolving the longstanding trade problem with Canada. This House should insist on fair trade from our neighbor to the north.

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) report released on Dec. 21, 2001, the CWB is empowered with both monopsony and monopoly power in the marketing of Canadian wheat. Unlike the U.S., where there are many producer cooperatives and grain traders to buy wheat, the CWB is the sole buyer of Canadian wheat in Canada. The sheer volume of wheat available through the CWB allows it to dominate the Durum wheat market, where it has all but ended U.S. participation in the futures market of Durum wheat. No single U.S. company trading in Durum wheat can afford to take the risks that the behemoth CWB can take.

The ITC report also concludes that the CWB also enjoys Canadian government approval and backing of its borrowing and other financing, thus reducing the CWB's costs and insulating it from commercial risks faced by large and small U.S. grain traders. The Canadian government also provided CWB with a cap on proceeds railways can receive for shipping CWB grain; shipments to the eastern and western ports for overseas export are below comparable commercial rates. In the U.S., railways are deregulated and shippers of grain are charged the same commercial freight costs as anyone else. Furthermore, producers in Canada are forced to pay a flat location-based rate for shipment of their wheat regardless of whether it actually costs the CWB that amount or not. Any money made from these "phantom" charges by the CWB can then be

used as a bargaining chip in trading wheat with the U.S. or other countries.

Finally, the ITC report concludes that the Canadian trade policies and programs, particularly the varietal registration program and end-use certificates for U.S. wheat, have been reported by U.S. exporters as adversely affecting the level of U.S. wheat exports to Canada. In 2000/01 the U.S. imported \$212 million worth of wheat from Canada, while it exported only \$50,000 worth of wheat to Canada. The Wheat Access Facilitation Program, which was implemented by the U.S. and Canada as part of the Record of Understanding in 1998 to facilitate exports of U.S. wheat directly to Canadian elevators, is no longer in use.

The report makes clear that the CWB and the Canadian government continue to use trade-distorting practices. The CWB's monopoly is unfair to our nation's wheat farmers, and the administration should seek remedies under Section 301 and hold the CWB accountable for its unfair trade practices. This House should insist that Canada halt the secretive and harmful behavior of the CWB and act as a good neighbor by practicing fair trade.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED BROWN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a retiring icon of the Colorado media community. For over forty years, Fred has dazzled and charmed Colorado readers with his witty intellect and supercharged rhetoric that has resulted in a large and loyal following of political minded readers around the state.

Fred began his life in journalism as an undergraduate at Colorado State University in the late 1950's. After graduation, he went on to receive his Masters in Journalism in 1963 from the prestigious Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. In June of that year, Fred went to work with the Denver Post, and began a career that would last almost four decades.

As a journalist, Fred covered many issues concerning Colorado, most notably politics and government, a topic he covered for The Post for over twenty-five years. He also wrote for the editorial page and his weekly columns were features every Friday guaranteeing to inform Coloradans of breaking political events around the nation.

In addition to his duties, Fred also found time to serve his profession in the pursuit of journalistic excellence. His goal to ensure ethics in journalism was demonstrated in his service to the Society of Professional Journalists. He has served as society President, co-authored the Society's Code of Ethics, and served as Chairman and Co-Chair of the SBJ's National Ethics Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Brown's accomplishments and dedication to excellence in journalism certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. Fred serves as a symbol for aspiring journalists and political patrons throughout Colorado and the nation. I would personally like to thank Fred for his commitment to ethics in journalism and his diligence in informing the public of our nation's governmental proceedings. Congratulations Fred, and good luck in your future endeavors.

HONORING THE WORCESTER YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Worcester, Massachusetts in celebrating the graduation of five young adults from the Worcester YouthBuild Program.

The Worcester YouthBuild Partnership began in 1998 under the guidance of Mass. Job Training, Inc. and through a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It provides unemployed, low-income young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school and have not received a high school diploma or GED with access to tools with which they can change their lives. YouthBuild Partnership provides instruction in education/GED preparation, life and leadership skills development, job readiness training, counseling as well as job development, placement assistance and construction skills.

I would like to acknowledge the graduates of the Worcester YouthBuild Program: Timothy Coll, Raini Notice, Arlene Perez, Carlos Rios and Shayne Smith. Furthermore, I want to recognize the contribution of Brandon Castro who participated in the YouthBuild Program but tragically died before he could complete the project. Among other things these young adults have participated in the construction of low-income family housing units at 41 Wall Street in Worcester, Massachusetts. As part of PROJECT REMEMBER, this house becomes the first of six housing rehabilitation/development projects to commemorate Worcester's six fallen firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these young adults for taking an active part in their community and I am confident that their contributions will have a lasting positive impact. I congratulate them on their accomplishments and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

IN HONOR OF MATTHEW AND AMANDA FAULKENBERRY

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two young people who have touched a world united for peace. Life Magazine's commemorative edition of the September 11th attacks features a touching image of Matthew and Amanda Faulkenberry embracing moments before Matthew was to depart for Afghanistan.

Since the original printing, this touching photo has appeared on ABC's Good Morning America, CNN, C-Span, and other various media outlets all over the world as an unforgettable symbol of American unity and strength in the face of adversity.

Son of Duane and Rhonda Faulkenberry of Herrin, Illinois, Matthew is a nuclear technician on the U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt* and a 1998 graduate of Herrin High School. Amanda graduated from Herrin High School in 1999 and is

the daughter of Curtis and Marilyn Smith. The couple currently resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

It is with this, Mr Speaker, that I sincerely thank Matthew and Amanda Faulkenberry for inspiring a nation in mourning. Their contribution to the healing of our country will not go unforgotten.

CURRENT UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS HAITI

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding current United States policy towards Haiti.

Haiti, a country slightly smaller than the state of Maryland, is about 475 miles off the coast of the United States. It is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The life expectancy of the average Haitian is only 53 years, and this number is certain to decline as the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country becomes even more severe. According to TUNAIDS, the United Nations agency responsible for addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic, more than 5% of the adult population is HIV-positive, and some sectors of the population have infection rates of over 50%. Haiti's infant mortality rate stands at 74 of every 1,000 births, and more than 1 in 4 children under the age of 5 are malnourished. Haiti ranks 152nd out of 174 on the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index, below such countries as Bangladesh and Sudan.

In previous years, the United States pursued a constructive relationship with Haiti. Between FY 95 and FY 99, the United States provided \$884 million in critical development assistance funds to support agricultural development, democracy and governance, teacher training, health care, and many other programs. The United States also supported multilateral institutions that worked to improve the lives of ordinary Haitians. More recently, however, the United States has pursued a dangerously narrow policy towards Haiti and has used its veto power to prevent the disbursement of funds from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The board of directors of the IDB has already approved \$146 million in social sector loans for Haiti, but because of United States policy, these funds have been blocked from improving the lives of 8 million Haitians. Among the blocked loans are \$22 million to improve education, \$23 million for health care, and \$61 million for water and sanitation projects. Mr. Speaker, this policy must change.

In order for the living standards and life chances of ordinary Haitians to improve, international development assistance is critical. The United States must change its current policy towards Haiti so that it may receive multilateral funds for pressing development needs. If we do not act now, the deplorable conditions in Haiti will lead to a further deterioration in living conditions, social unrest, and a possible refugee crisis that will certainly affect our shores.

HONORING FAIRENE SEWELL

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Fairene B. Sewell, on the occasion of her retirement from the University of Tennessee Extension Service after fifty years of service.

Fairene Sewell is a constituent of mine and is a resident of Selmer, Tennessee. Born in Henderson County, Tennessee, Mrs. Sewell graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Home Economics.

Mrs. Sewell has served the Volunteer State with pride as an Extension Leader at the University. She has received the National Association of Extension Home Economists Distinguished Service Award and a Certificate of Meritorious Service from Epsilon Sigma Phi. Mrs. Sewell is a member of the American Home Economics Association, the Tennessee Home Education Association, Tennessee Association of Extension Home Economists, American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and Tennessee Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, TEAFCS, and "Dean's Circle," College of Human Ecology at the University of Tennessee.

In addition to her professional memberships, Mrs. Sewell is active in the community. She has received: the Jaycees and Rotary Outstanding Citizen Award, a Certificate of Recognition for Continuous and Dedicated Community Service by the Modern Woodmen of America, and a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation for teaching Health and Wellness Class at McNairy Central High School. Mrs. Sewell is a member of the Pilot Club, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, First Baptist Church, and is the Secretary of PEC Credentials and Election Committee for District 8.

Fairene Sewell is a real asset to McNairy County, and to the State of Tennessee. Her colleagues speak highly of her, and her record shows a commitment to the community and to her students. She will be sorely missed by all those who know her.

PROCLAMATION FOR PETER REILLY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students, Peter Reilly. This young man has received the Eagle Scout honor from his peers in recognition of his achievements.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

The Eagle Scout award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our Nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary