

Like the notorious 1932–1933 mass starvation in Ukraine, famine is not always borne of a natural disaster. However, famine can become an effective ideological weapon.

Stalin himself would have been proud of the sordid partnership forged by radical environmentalists and African tyrants. What are a few million lives worth to this axis of hunger when there are political statements to be made?

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to speak in strenuous objection to this African tragedy unfolding before our very eyes. The extreme human price paid for the lessons of the Great Ukrainian Famine should not be dismissed now to the complacency of an overwhelmed world. To permit this new festering scourge is to insult the memory of those poor Ukrainians who have perished while trivializing the dignity of their survivors whose lives command us to respond with immediate courage.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN BUD SHUSTER

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express congratulations to a former colleague, Congressman Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania, for an honor he recently received.

Earlier this week, Bud Shuster was named the "Transportation Person of the Century" by the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors (APC) in honor of the tremendous contributions he has made to the nation's transportation and infrastructure systems. It is a tribute to Bud that APC rightly recognized the role that he played in ensuring that our communities have transportation choices, such as transit, rail systems, pedestrian walkways, Amtrak, and bike paths.

Bud Shuster spent his career building America. Bud served in the House of Representatives for 28 years, six of those as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the largest and most productive committee in Congress. His perseverance, patience and willingness to find common ground made him one of the greatest committee chairmen we have seen in recent years in the House. His extraordinary achievements as Chairman speak for themselves, and he has the respect of his former colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Part of the joy of working on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is the way in which we work together to develop bipartisan bills. As a committee, we worked extraordinarily well over the six years of Bud's leadership. I had the pleasure of working with him on many major pieces of legislation to improve the nation's transportation and infrastructure systems, including TEA–21 and AIR–21. Throughout his service on the Transportation Committee, Bud Shuster demonstrated effective bipartisan leadership in showing that transportation, infrastructure and environmental programs make a real difference in all Americans' lives.

He retired from this body at the beginning of the 107th Congress, and since that time, I have missed him, not only for his policy expertise, but also for his friendship. I commend and congratulate Bud Shuster on his distinguished career as a public servant.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RICHARD H. FINAN FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO THE STATE OF OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio. Dick Finan, from the Village of Evandale, is the outgoing President of the Ohio Senate. He is being honored for his dedicated service and loyalty to the Ohio General Assembly and to the citizens of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, President Richard H. Finan began his career in public service in 1963. He served as a Councilman in the Village of Evandale until 1969, when he was then elected to serve as Mayor.

After serving the citizens of Evandale for ten years, he ran for and was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives. There he served with distinction until 1978. He was elected to the Ohio Senate upon leaving the House of Representatives and in 1997, was elected by his colleagues to serve as Senate President.

President Finan has had a significant impact on public policy in Ohio. He has also reached out nationally in an attempt to improve the lives of all citizens living in this great land. He currently serves as Chairman of the University of Dayton Board of Trustees and is a Past President of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Serving his community and the State of Ohio was not only Dick's duty, but also his honor. These chances to give back to the public have brought him a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. President Finan truly is a valued asset to the Village of Evandale and to the state of Ohio.

President Finan has been a great resource and a true friend to everyone around him. Respected by his colleagues in the legislature and in the private sector, Dick has shown the ability to improve the environment around him. He has been the recipient of many awards that reflect his service, including the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund, the President's Medal from Miami University, the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Medical College of Ohio, and the William Howard Taft Americanism Award from the Anti-Defamation League. He is an Honorary Alumni Member—Omicron Delta Kappa—at the University of Dayton and holds an honorary degree from Xavier University.

President Finan will be missed in the public arena. His wisdom, honesty and forthrightness are attributes to which all public servants should aspire. He has set an example for everyone on how to live a life of service, putting the greater interests of the community before one's own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to President Richard H. Finan. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Dick, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Dick, his wife Joan and their four children all the best as we pay tribute to one of our nation's finest citizens.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND
LAVAUGHN VENCHAEAL BOOTH

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Reverend Lavaughn Venchael Booth, a distinguished friend and champion of faith and justice from Cincinnati, who passed away on November 17.

Born on January 7, 1919 in Covington County, Mississippi, Reverend Booth received a bachelor's degree in American history from Alcorn A&M College; a bachelor's degree in divinity from Howard University; and a master's degree in church history from the University of Chicago Divinity School. He began his ministry with First Baptist Church of Warrenton, Virginia and continued his ministry with First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana. He pastored Zion Baptist Church in the Avondale area of Cincinnati for 32 years before founding the Olivet Baptist Church in Silverton. Last year, he came out of retirement to pastor the Church upon the Rock in Anderson, Indiana.

In 1961, Reverend Booth founded the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC). The PNBC became the household of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement among African-American Baptists. As Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin noted, "King, while siding with progressives, had no active role with the organization of the PNBC." Dr. King at his last meeting with the PNBC in 1967 in Cincinnati emphasized according to convention minutes "that he is a member of the PNBC. He has come to speak not as a civil rights leader, but as a minister of the gospel." The PNBC split from the National Baptist Convention and formed a denomination that played an active role in the civil rights movement by joining with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and provided Dr. King with a national platform. Reverend Booth served as its president from 1971–1974. Progressives today have 2.5 million members in 1,800 churches nationwide.

But Reverend Booth's focus was his local ministry, and he said, "We should have concern for the physical, as well as the spiritual well-being of people." He initiated economic development projects, secured the credit to build hundreds of low-income housing units and a church-run nursing home, and later established the region's first black-owned bank. Described as a visionary who dedicated his life to the Lord, he was driven to do for others, trying to make the world and his community a better place to live.

Reverend Booth's civil and community activities are legendary. He was the first African-American member of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees. He was a founding member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, served on the board of the Cincinnati City Gospel Mission and as vice president of the Gospel World Alliance. He helped to establish the Marva Collins Preparatory School in Cincinnati; the Cincinnati Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast, a service that offered prayers for newly-elected public servants; and the National Prayer League.

Reverend Booth is survived by his sons, Paul Booth of Cincinnati, who is a member of

the Cincinnati City Council; Lavaughn Booth Jr. of Chicago; and Rev. Dr. William Booth of Hampton, Virginia; and daughters Anna-Marie Booth of San Francisco, and Dr. Georgia Leeper of Memphis. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. We are blessed by his life and having known him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 484, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN BILL COYNE

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to my long time friend and colleague. BILL COYNE will retire from this institution after serving 11 terms as a Member of this institution.

Bill is a lifelong resident of Pittsburgh, and so like myself, is a native of the southwestern Pennsylvania district he has so faithfully represented for the past 22 years.

The 14th District includes the city of Pittsburgh as well as 33 other surrounding communities in the very heart of this country's steel producing center. From his post as a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, he has been able to develop and promote countless economic policy initiatives to the benefit of the Southwestern region as well as the Nation, including those dealing with Social Security, trade, tax reform, health care, housing and community development, job creation, and job training.

In addition to serving as ranking member of the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee BILL has served on the Banking Committee, the Budget Committee, the Committee on House Administration, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. He has consistently used his committee assignments to promote federal policies to the benefit of urban America.

During the 103rd Congress, BILL succeeded in making the tax-exempt Industrial Development Bond permanent. IDB's helped to create or retain more than 26,000 manufacturing jobs in Pennsylvania alone between 1987 and 1992. He also led the successful House Ways and Means opposition to a proposed \$1 per gallon hike in the Federal fuel tax for waterway commerce in 1993, which was of enormous economic benefit for the Three Rivers area he represents.

Bill also successfully inserted language in the 1993 reconciliation bill that provided low-income workers with an improved opportunity to receive an Earned Income Tax Credit on a monthly basis, instead of waiting for a single annual payment.

In the 104th Congress, BILL COYNE worked with many of his Democratic colleagues to protect Federal funding for programs serving children, seniors, and working families, and to ensure that the burden of Federal taxation was not disproportionately borne by working families. He also worked to provide tax incentives for businesses and municipalities to clean up and redevelop abandoned industrial sites, and he worked to expand protection for workers' rights in international trade agreements.

In the 105th Congress, he worked for middle-class tax relief while balancing the Federal budget responsibly. He was a supporter of both the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. He worked successfully to include a provision in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 which allowed businesses to deduct the cost of cleaning up brownfields sites in certain targeted areas. He was also actively involved in developing and enacting legislation to reform the Internal Revenue Service, and much of his Taxpayer Bill of Rights legislation was in that bill.

BILL COYNE worked to make organ transplant regulations fairer and worked with me to make the Disproportionate Share Hospital program's formula for hospitals fairer as well. He also worked to provide nearly \$800 million in projects for his district in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) including reconstruction of Drake, Library and Overbrook trolley lines, construction of an extension of the MLK Jr. Busway, construction of an industrial access road in Lawrenceville, and construction of transit links between downtown and the North Shore.

During the 106th Congress, BILL COYNE continued to work to protect federal programs that serve children, senior citizens, the disabled, and working families; enact a Medicare prescription drug benefit; strengthen U.S. laws that punish unfair foreign trade practices; protect Americans' pensions and other retirement benefits; increase funding for medical research and education; and make the Federal Tax Code simpler and fairer by reforming the capital gains tax and the alternative minimum tax. He also worked successfully to increase public awareness about food stamp eligibility and to expand the brownfields tax provision and push back its expiration date by several years.

BILL COYNE is a graduate of Central Catholic High School and Robert Morris College. He served in the United States Army in Korea from 1955 to 1957. He worked as a corporate accountant for 13 years before entering politics in 1970. He served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1971 to 1972 and on the Pittsburgh City Council from 1973 until 1980.

I'm proud to have served alongside BILL COYNE and worked with him for these many years for the benefit of our adjoining districts and Pennsylvania as a whole. BILL's seniority on Ways and Means will be sorely missed by Pennsylvania. His expertise as a legislator will be missed by all Americans who were helped by his good work. His good nature, friendship, and collegiality will I know be missed by his fellow Pennsylvania Members and indeed by all of us here in the House of Representatives. Please join me in wishing him well in his retirement from public service.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN
BRAUNGINN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Stephen Braunginn, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Madison for his work in the community.

As a leader in the Urban League movement and in the Madison area community, Mr. Braunginn has focused on the continuing struggle for equal opportunity for all with a special focus on African Americans, other people of color, those with disabilities and the disadvantaged.

Prior to working with the Urban League, Steve served as the Deputy Director for the Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Prevention Resources for over four years. He was the first Director of Multicultural Affairs and Special Interest Groups for the Wisconsin Alumni Association at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He is also an educator, having taught in the Madison Schools for six years, working with students with learning disabilities and the gifted and talented. He served as a leader on the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) where he was also the leader of Teachers for a Free South Africa. In addition, Steve became active in developing a middle school for South Madison. When he was a teacher at Cherokee Middle School, he served on the Urban League Board of Directors, where he later became chair, serving for two years. During his tenure on the Urban League Board, Steve was selected to serve on the Madison School's South Madison Advisory Committee, which eventually developed the framework for Madison Middle School 2000 which later became James C. Wright Middle School.

Steve served on the Dane County Board of Supervisors for six years. During this time he chaired the Personnel and Finance Committee and the Dane County Human Services Board. He has been on many community commissions, served numerous organizations, and has also received a variety of awards for his service to the Madison area community.

As the Wisconsin Community Fund honors Steve Braunginn, I am proud to join them in thanking him for his dedication and service to the community.

LONG ISLAND'S HOUSING CRISIS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again note the severe affordable housing crisis my constituents face on Long Island.

Today's Newsday carried an article by Christian Murray revealing some truly disturbing statistics. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 26 percent of Long Island households pay more than 35 percent of their gross monthly income on either rent or mortgage. For over fifty years Americans have been cautioned to keep housing expenses under 25 percent of their income. The 35 percent average is a genuine crisis.