

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.

Pearl Kamer, an economist who wrote the report for the Island's leading affordable housing organization, the Long Island Housing Partnership, noted that "with many people paying so much on housing, there is little left over for food and medical care."

Mr. Speaker, this housing crisis is having a terrible effect on Long Island's families. The fact that young people—often college graduates with good jobs—cannot find adequate, affordable housing, means that those young people are leaving Long Island. And if companies can't rely on a stable workforce, they will choose to locate somewhere else.

The lack of affordable housing on Long Island is not merely about some families having to pay too much. It is a problem that permeates every part of our community's life. Young people are forced out of our region. Jobs disappear as companies decide they can no longer depend upon a solid workforce. And our communities dissolve as the very foundation on which that community was built erodes.

Mr. Speaker, when the 108th Congress convenes in January, we must quickly address the issue of adequate housing in America.

I ask that the text of today's Newsday article be included in the RECORD at this time.

[From Newsday, Nov. 21, 2002]

MORTGAGING LI'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

(By Christian Murray)

Skyrocketing rents and booming home prices are forcing more than 200,000 Long Island households to pay more than one-third of their income on housing, according to a comprehensive new study released yesterday.

The study, "Lack of Affordable Housing: Prescription for Economic Disaster," found 26 percent of Long Island households pay more than 35 percent of their gross monthly income on either rent or mortgage.

"These findings are dire," said Pearl Kamer, a regional economist who conducted the study for the Long Island Housing Partnership. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines say households should not spend more than 30 percent of their gross income on housing.

"With many people paying so much on housing, there is little left over for food and medical care," Kamer said at a news conference at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset yesterday. Kamer added that the high cost of housing is forcing many people, especially young families, to leave Long Island, and this exodus will hurt the region when the economy picks up and companies can't find workers.

While affordable housing has long been an issue on Long Island, the problem has been exacerbated by the hot real estate market in the past four years, when home prices have soared 81 percent while household incomes have risen only 14 percent, Kamer said.

Jim Margo, president of the Hauppauge-based Long Island Housing Partnership, said he has established a task force of industry and nonprofit officials to take the study's findings to every municipality across the Island, as a means of prodding officials to make way for more affordable housing.

The study, based on 2000 census figures, analyzed median incomes and housing costs in more than 250 communities by individual census tract.

It found that about one quarter, or 165,000 of Long Island's 672,000 homeowners, paid at least 35 percent for a place to live—including mortgage payments, property taxes and insurance. In some Nassau County neighborhoods, including Elmont, Hempstead Village, Uniondale and Roosevelt, at least 20 percent

of the owners spent more than 50 percent of gross income on housing. And this scenario also occurred in the Suffolk neighborhoods of Wyandanch, North Amityville, North Bay Shore and Brentwood.

The study also found that one-third of tenants across Long Island paid more than 35 percent of household income in rent. In many neighborhoods—such as Central Islip, North Amityville, Wyandanch and Lawrence Village—about 40 percent of renters pay more than half their wages on shelter. Rental units account for about 19 percent of Nassau's housing stock and 18 percent of Suffolk's—low, compared with 38 percent of Westchester and 27 percent in Rockland.

But some Nassau neighborhoods, including Manorhaven, Hempstead Village, Great Neck Plaza, Long Beach and Glen Cove, have more than 40 percent of their housing units in rental apartments. And in Suffolk, Bay Shore and Patchogue both have high ratios of rental units to owner-occupied housing.

Elizabeth McCarthy, who grew up in Dix Hills and works at Canon USA's Lake Success offices in marketing, said at the news conference she's been struggling to find housing after graduating from Marist College in 1998. Earning about \$31,000 annually, she rented a studio apartment for \$900 per month in Bay Shore—but it was too costly. "I thought about leaving the area [Long Island]," She started looking for a house with her parents. "I was shocked to find that there was nothing out there, never mind anything in my price range." Eventually, she was able to buy a subsidizing affordable home through the Housing Partnership at the Highview, a complex in Huntington.

Kamer added that since the 2000 census, when the data were gathered, the affordable-housing crisis has most likely worsened.

Kamer said that many young workers, unable to afford housing here, are leaving. And many of these workers who have lower-paying jobs are essential to the Island's economy.

Suffolk County Executive Robert Gaffney said some towns are reluctant to build rental units or affordable housing, fearing that it will decrease the value of an area. But if employers don't have the labor force they'll need because young workers leave, they'll set up businesses elsewhere.

Among Margo's list of possible solutions is his call to get towns to allow for greater zoning flexibility, when developers put forward proposals for affordable-housing units. While many young people earn much more than their parents, he said, they are unable to afford a home. "It's the inversion of the American Dream," Margo said.

FEELING THE PINCH

Communities on Long Island with the highest percentages of homeowners spending more than 35 percent of their income on housing costs. Minimum 3,000 housing units.

1. Hempstead Village: 34.9 percent.
2. Elmont: 34.2 percent.
3. Brentwood: 31.1 percent.
4. Dix Hills: 30.0 percent.
5. Central Islip: 29.9 percent.
6. Copiague: 29.7 percent.
7. Bay Shore: 29.5 percent.
8. Franklin Square: 29.3 percent.
9. North Valley Stream: 29.3 percent.
10. Freeport: 28.8 percent.
11. East Islip: 28.7 percent.
12. Greenlawn: 27.9 percent.
13. Uniondale: 27.8 percent.
14. West Babylon: 27.5 percent.
15. Deer Park: 27.4 percent.
16. Ridge: 27.0 percent.
17. St. James: 25.9 percent.
18. Selden: 25.9 percent.
19. North Massapequa: 25.8 percent.
20. Glen Cove: 25.7 percent.

21. Lindenhurst: 25.7 percent.

22. Long Beach: 25.7 percent.

23. West Islip: 25.7 percent.

24. South Farmingdale: 25.6 percent.

25. Merrick: 25.5 percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

RECOGNIZING THE LAO STUDENTS' MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND THE URGENT NEED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORMS IN LAOS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last month marked the third anniversary of the bloody intervention by Lao communist security forces against peaceful student demonstrators. In October of 1999, the communist regime in Vientiane sought to crush the Lao Students Movement for Democracy. I was recently honored to join with Laotian-American constituents and survivors of this brutal crackdown to speak at the Congressional Forum on Laos, which had a series of special events in the U.S. House of Representatives this year to mark the anniversary of this dark chapter in the history of Laos and the free world.

Mr. Speaker, my district is the home to many freedom-loving Lao-Americans as well as the Lao Students Movement for Democracy—whose members are comprised largely of the survivors of the pro-democracy movement in Laos in 1999. The students escaped the Lao communist regime to neighboring Thailand and then were admitted to the United States as refugees after the outpouring of concern by Laotian-Americans in the South King County area. Sadly, however, many of the Lao pro-democracy student leaders and their families still remain jailed in Laos and have disappeared into their horrific prison system. Amnesty International continues to raise concerns about their plight and the systemic torture that exists within the prisons and gulag system of Laos.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and thank the leaders of the Lao community for their steadfast efforts on behalf of freedom and democracy in Laos and for the hard work of all those involved in organizing the U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos sessions held on September 17 and October 1st.

Mr. Speaker, I remain deeply concerned about the ongoing plight of the Lao students leaders and others who are still jailed in Laos for their political or religious beliefs, or simply because they are members of an ethnic minority like the Hmong people. I would urge my colleagues, therefore, to work toward helping to bring freedom, hope and human rights to Laos and its suffering people. We should remember those who are still persecuted and jailed in Laos, struggling for basic human rights and freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include into the RECORD the following news article from the Agence France Press ("Lao Exiles Demand Freedom for Imprisoned Comrades," July 18, 2002) regarding the Lao Students' efforts in Congress in Washington, DC:

Exiled dissidents have demanded the release of five colleagues who have disappeared