

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

into the prison gulag in Laos, following unprecedented anti-Communist protests.

The Lao government is holding five of the eleven strong core leadership of the Lao Students for Democracy after it crushed surprise protests in the capital, Vientiane, in October 1999.

Six others, two of whom appeared at a U.S. Congressional forum devoted to their cause, on Wednesday, escaped to Thailand, before being granted political asylum by the United States.

"My colleagues are still in jail, they are asking for peace and justice for the Lao people, I would like them to be put on trial as soon as possible," said one of the leaders, Aly Chantala.

Another dissident leader Nouamkhan Khamphylavong added: "We still heard nothing about their fate since they were arrested."

Rights group Amnesty International has accused the ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party of denying that the arrests even took place and of holding prisoners in cruel and degrading conditions.

Campaigners say the five student leaders were arrested, tortured and incarcerated by the Lao government in violation of the country's one year limit on detention without trial.

They want the United States and world financial bodies to withhold financial aid and make trade benefits for Laos conditional on improvements in its human rights record and the granting of political rights.

Some business groups and sectors of the U.S. administration have, however, been pushing for Laos to be granted normal trade relations with the United States, arguing that economic opening will trigger an easing of the political situation.

Wednesday's event in a Congressional building was part of an ongoing campaign to block the aspirations of the pro Laos-trade lobby.

#### HONORING THE EDUCATIONAL CAREER OF HULON WATSON

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 22, 2002*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hulon Watson for an outstanding 44-year career in education. He has spent the last 5½ years helping my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, deal with a population explosion as the school superintendent for Rutherford County. Prior to that post, Hulon served 18 years as the principal of Murfreesboro's Riverdale High School.

But after more than four decades as an educator, Hulon has decided to retire and spend more time with his wife, Charlotte; their two children; and their four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Hulon's last official work day will be December 31 of this year.

Hulon began his career as a teacher and coach in nearby Winchester, Tennessee. After he moved to Murfreesboro in 1979 to take the principal's position at Riverdale High School, he began helping Rutherford County students achieve success. And when he took over the helm of the Rutherford County School System, he helped raise scholastic standards county-wide and guided a vigorous campaign to build much-needed schools.

Hulon did all this during a time when every penny counted. Rutherford County can now

count itself as among one of the best, most efficiently operated school systems in the entire nation. In years to come, Rutherford County residents will be able to see Hulon's legacy through their prosperity. I congratulate him for his efforts and accomplishments in providing Rutherford County children with an education second to none and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

#### CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE MONMOUTH COUNCIL OF GIRL SCOUTS, INC. 2002 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 22, 2002*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. 2002 Women of Distinction honorees and their significant contributions to Central New Jersey.

For forty years, through its efforts, the Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts has served tens of thousands of young women across Central New Jersey. This year's women of Distinction honorees exhibit the altruistic ideals that our Nation needs now, more than ever. These ideals, no doubt grew from their involvement in Girl Scouts and the grounding principles of the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law which read as follows:

#### THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE

On my honor, I will try, to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

#### THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do; And to, respect my self and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

The 2002 Women of Distinction Honorees are Carole Robinson for her inspiring Girl Scout spirit, Anna Diaz-White and Paulette Roberts for their professional excellence and Sister Ellen Kelly for her dedication and service to our community. As we celebrate women's History Month, we honor each of these recipients for their hard work and dedication and we celebrate the legacy they have created for women and women's history in Central New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to celebrate, honor and command these outstanding New Jerseyans. I have personally observed the effective work of some of these honorees and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their invaluable contributions to our community and to New Jersey.

#### IN HONOR OF NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 22, 2002*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of November being National Adoption Month. Every year, thousands of American families are blessed by

adoption. Whether through domestic or international adoption of children from foster care, the love of compassionate families embraces children of all ages and from every background. During National Adoption Month, we recognize the heartfelt commitment of these good citizens, and we renew our pledge to make adoption a more accessible and positive path for American families.

Children thrive in loving families where they are nurtured, comforted, and protected. We are making important progress in placing children in foster care with adoptive families, and the overall number of children being adopted continues to rise. In the past five years, adoptions have increased dramatically, and thus far in 2002, tens of thousands of children have already been adopted.

In addition, as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Adoption, I have worked to ease the financial burden on adoptive families and to ensure that more children find a caring, permanent home.

But with most adoption costs ranging from \$8,000 to \$20,000 and even upwards of \$30,000, many families can not afford this huge expense. No child should be forced to grow up without a family because of the tremendous cost of adoption.

That's why I am proud that the President signed into law a bill I supported from its inception that provides for an Adoption Tax Credit for those who take this important step into parenthood. As part of the Economic Security and Worker Assistance Act of 2002, this provision will go a long way to making adoption more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, every child deserves a permanent, loving home and, with so many families who want to open their hearts and their homes to these children, this measure will help remove the financial barriers that may hinder this union.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents of the fourth Congressional district of New York, I, Congresswoman CAROLYN MCCARTHY, do hereby commend Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi, the Nassau County Department of Social Services and the Nassau County's Surrogate's Court for finalizing the adoptions of thirty-two children from foster care.

#### HONORING VIRGINIA GAINES FOX

### HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 22, 2002*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, It is an honor to rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazer, a visionary, a dedicated public servant, and a Kentucky original. I speak of the inimitable Virginia Gaines Fox, president and CEO of Kentucky Educational Television, who is retiring next month after 42 years of service in public broadcasting.

Virginia Fox—or Ginni, as she is known by her friends and colleagues—has created a legacy of innovation, public service and the highest standards of excellence. Under her astute leadership, she has built KET into an industry leader. Kentucky Educational Television is the number one provider of adult education in America, providing thousands of broadcast hours of instructional programming to classrooms and hundreds of hours of professional