

I could not end my remarks without trying to compete, though I am obviously working hard to compete, by noting the history of the Houston Rockets and to give a shout out to my home team and to mention the early basketball players. Probably there were some earlier than this, but I might mention John Lucas, who now has a son playing and will be entering a second generation of pro basketball players; and Calvin Murphy, who not only, along with John, played basketball but were fixtures in our community, contributed to the lives of young people and turned their lives around and were role models for them; Olajuwon and the famous dream team that we had; and Clyde Drexler, who is a businessman and contributor in our community; Steve Francis, who supports the programs of young people; Kenny Smith and many, many others who played for the Houston Rockets.

Might I say that we are still striving, but I know that our day will come when we will be national basketball champs. We look forward to celebrating the All-Stars in Houston this coming year, and we want to thank all of our NBA players for the contributions they have made over the years to improving the quality of life of all of our citizens across America, and particularly the work they have done in helping us with Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation. Again, I support enthusiastically and congratulate the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) for her leadership on H. Con. Res. 59 and ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Con. Res. 59.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 59.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AVA GARDNER POST OFFICE

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3439) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 North 3rd Street in Smithfield, North Carolina, as the "Ava Gardner Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3439

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AVA GARDNER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 North 3rd Street in Smithfield, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Ava Gardner Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ava Gardner Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3439.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 3439, authored by the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

This bill would designate the Post Office in Smithfield, North Carolina, as the "Ava Gardner Post Office Building." All Members of the North Carolina delegation have cosponsored this legislation.

The life of Ava Gardner is a true rags-to-riches story that started on a tobacco farm in the rural south. Born and raised in Johnston County, North Carolina, Ava Gardner had planned on becoming a secretary in her adult life. However, at the age of 18, a scout from MGM Studios offered her a 7-year contract from seeing a photo of her in the window of her brother-in-law's New York photograph shop. Having no acting experience at all, Ava had to settle for scripts containing little better than one-line bits.

In 1946, she landed her first starring role in the B-grade movie, *Whistle Stop*. Later that year, on loan from MGM, Universal Studios cast her in her breakout hit, *The Killers*. Her career as a leading lady then took off in such films as *Magambo* opposite Clark Gable, *The Barefoot Contessa* and *Night of the Iguana*, all between the years of 1953 and 1964.

Ava Gardner, the earthy girl from North Carolina, had beaten the odds to become one of Hollywood's most famous icons. Today, anyone can view the personal effects and career artifacts of Ava's extraordinary life at the Ava Gardner Museum in Smithfield, North Carolina. The museum enables both young and old to experience the history of classic cinema. I urge all Members to join me in saluting her dedication and perseverance towards her unlikely but spectacularly successful career.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 3439, legislation naming a postal facility in Smithfield, North Carolina, after Ava Gardner, an illustrious actress often remembered as the most beautiful in Hollywood history. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) on July 26, 2005, and unanimously reported by our committee on September 15, 2005, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire North Carolina delegation.

Ava Lavinia Gardner was born in the small town of Grabtown, North Carolina, as the youngest of seven children. Ava Gardner's film career began at the age of 18 when an MGM agent saw her photograph in the window of her brother-in-law's New York City photograph studio. Her prolific film career includes roles in *Mogambo* (1953), for which she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress; *The Barefoot Contessa* (1954); *The Sun Also Rises* (1957); *On the Beach*, (1959); *The Night of the Iguana* (1964), for which she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress; and *Regina Roma* (1982).

Ava Gardner was married to three legendary Hollywood actors, including Mickey Rooney, Artie Shaw and Frank Sinatra. She died in London on January 25, 1990, of pneumonia at the age of 67 and was buried in Smithfield, North Carolina, in the Gardner family plot near the Ava Gardner Museum.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague for speaking to honor Ava Gardner, who rose from humble roots to become one of the most famous actresses in film history.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I would just like to thank my colleague from Illinois for his help on all of these resolutions. He is always such a gentleman, so dignified. I have sometimes said that east Tennessee, where I am from, is the only part the whole country where the people speak with absolutely no accent whatsoever, but I do have to admit that the gentleman from Illinois has a beautiful voice, and it is always a pleasure to work with him.

Madam Speaker, with that, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3439.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3439, legislation to name the main post office in Smithfield, North Carolina, in honor of Ava Gardner.

I am proud to be sponsor of this legislation not only because Ava Gardner is a native of our great State, but because growing up in Johnston County I was always aware of her accomplishments and of the lives she touched around the world.

Ava Gardner lived the American Dream but never forgot her humble beginnings in Johnston County, her high school days at Rock Ridge or her days at Atlantic Christian College. Ava Gardner's career spanned five decades, and she was America's sweetheart during Hollywood's Golden Age.

This small town girl was a big time celebrity. In fact, she was the first woman from North Carolina to grace the cover of Time Magazine. She was also a patriot who performed for our servicemen and a tireless leader in the fight against cancer.

Ava represents the can-do attitude and patriotism embodied by the people of Smithfield and Johnston County. At the request of the Mayor and Town Council of Smithfield, I was pleased to introduce this legislation in July and work for its passage.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3439 and honor a famous North Carolinian.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3439.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

HURRICANE KATRINA EMERGENCY HOUSING ACT OF 2005

Mr. BAKER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3894) to provide for waivers under certain housing assistance programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina in obtaining housing, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3894

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hurricane Katrina Emergency Housing Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. WAIVERS FOR SECTION 8 VOUCHER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") may, for all or any part of the period specified under subsection (c), waive any of the requirements described in subsection (b) in the connection with the provision of assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) on behalf of an individual or family if—

(1) the individual or family—

(A) resides or resided, on August 25, 2005, in any area that is subject to a declaration by the President of a major disaster or emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in connection with Hurricane Katrina; or

(B) resides or resided, on September 24, 2005, in any area that is subject to a declaration by the President of a major disaster or emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

(42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in connection with Hurricane Rita;

(2) the residence of the individual or family became uninhabitable or inaccessible as result of such major disaster or emergency; and

(3) as of the date referred to in paragraph (1), as applicable, rental assistance under such section 8(o) was provided on behalf of such individual or family.

(b) WAIVER OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements described in this subsection are the requirements under—

(1) paragraph (2) of section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(2)), relating to tenant contributions towards rent, except that any such waiver shall expire on an individual's return to work;

(2) paragraph (4) of such section 8(o), relating to the eligibility of individuals to receive assistance;

(3) subsection (k) of such section 8 and paragraph (5) of such section 8(o), relating to verification of income;

(4) paragraph (7)(A) of such section 8(o), relating to the requirement that leases shall be for a term of 1 year;

(5) paragraph (8) of such section 8(o), relating to initial inspection of housing units by a public housing agency;

(6) subsection (r)(1)(B) of such section 8, relating to restrictions on portability;

(7) any regulation, notice, or order requiring prior approval by the Secretary with respect to any addendum to the model lease that permits lease terminations in the event that a tenant—

(A) was not eligible for assistance at the time of lease approval;

(B) would not have been eligible for assistance if a criminal background check had been completed prior to lease approval; or

(C) would not have met that landlord's screening criteria with respect to rent or credit history if a full a screening had been completed prior to lease approval; and

(8) any regulation or Executive Order providing for access to Federally funded programs by eligible persons having limited English proficiency.

(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The period specified under this subsection is the 12-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act., unless before the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on such date of enactment the Secretary makes a determination that waivers under this section are no longer needed, in which case the period specified under this subsection is the 6-month period beginning on such date of enactment.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY TO DIRECTLY ADMINISTER VOUCHERS WHEN PHAS ARE UNABLE TO DO SO.

If the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development determines that a public housing agency is unable to implement the provisions of subsection (o) of section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) or section 2 of this Act due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, the Secretary may—

(1) directly administer any voucher program described in such subsection or in section 2 of this Act; and

(2) perform the functions assigned to a public housing agency by such subsection or section 2 of this Act.

SEC. 4. WAIVERS FOR PROJECT-BASED SECTION 8 TO FACILITATE HOUSING OF AFFECTED FAMILIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For all or part of the period specified under subsection (c), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") may waive the applicability of any of the requirements described subsection (b)

with respect to any housing provided project-based assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) for any individual or family that meets the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2(a) of this Act.

(b) PROVISIONS WAIVED.—The requirements described in this subsection are—

(1) section 3(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a)), relating to tenant contributions towards rent, except that any such waiver shall expire on an individual's return to work;

(2) section 8(k) of such Act, relating to verification of income;

(3) section 8(d)(1)(B)(i) of such Act, relating to the requirement that leases shall be for a term of 1 year;

(4) any requirement relating to initial inspection of housing units by a public housing agency;

(5) any regulation, notice, or order requiring prior approval by the Secretary with respect to any addendum to the model lease that permits lease terminations in the event that a tenant—

(A) was not eligible for assistance at the time of lease approval;

(B) would not have been eligible for assistance if a criminal background check had been completed prior to lease approval; or

(C) would not have met that landlord's screening criteria with respect to rent or credit history if a full a screening had been completed prior to lease approval; and

(6) any regulation or Executive Order providing for access to Federally funded programs by eligible persons having limited English proficiency.

(c) TERMINATION.—The period specified under this subsection is the 12-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act., unless before the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on such date of enactment the Secretary makes a determination that waivers under this section are no longer needed, in which case the period specified under this subsection is the 6-month period beginning on such date of enactment.

SEC. 5. PRESERVATION OF PROJECT-BASED SECTION 8 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS CONTRACTS FOR DAMAGED OR DESTROYED HOUSING UNITS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a project-based housing assistance payments contract entered into pursuant to section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) covering a project damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita shall not expire or be terminated because of the damage or destruction of dwelling units in the project. The expiration date of the contract shall be deemed to be the later of the date specified in the contract or a date ending three months after the units are first made habitable.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON INVENTORY OF AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES AND PROPERTIES FOR HOUSING USE.

(a) COMPILING OF INVENTORY.—Not later than 20 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the General Services Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and such other agency heads as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development determines appropriate, and the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, shall compile an inventory of Federal civilian and defense facilities (or, in the case of the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, properties held by such entities) that—

(A) identifies such facilities and properties that can be used—