

publications and has presented a number of papers at national, professional conferences.

Since coming to Floyd College, Dr. Cundiff has been actively involved in the community, having served on the board of the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce, chaired the 1995 Rome/Floyd County United Way Campaign, chaired the 1996 Race to the Olympics Commission for the Rome area, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Rome. Dr. Cundiff and his wife, Glenda, are very active in the North Rome Church of God, where they have been involved in providing pre-marriage and family counseling.

Under Dr. Cundiff's guidance and leadership, Floyd College, which was founded in 1970 to provide educational opportunities for the physical, intellectual, and cultural development of a diverse population in seven northwest Georgia counties, has grown to become an institute offering a large and varied community-education program. It operates extension centers in Cartersville, Haralson County, and Acworth. The college pioneered the development of cooperative programs with Coosa Valley Technical Institute as early as 1972, and now also offers joint programs with North Metro Technical Institute in Acworth, GA as well. With the advent of distance learning technologies, speciality programs, off-campus centers, collaborative arrangements, and cooperative degree programs with technical institutes, the college has expanded its scope of influence far beyond the institution's original geographical area.

Under Dr. Cundiff's leadership, the philosophy of the college is expressed in the beliefs that education is essential to the intellectual, physical, economic, social, emotional, cultural, and environmental well-being of individuals and society; and that education should be geographically and physically accessible and affordable. In support of this philosophy, the college maintains a teaching/learning environment which promotes inclusiveness and provides educational opportunities, programs, and services of excellence in response to documented needs.

Dr. Cundiff will be leaving Floyd College, effective July 31st, to assume the presidency of Salt Lake Community College in Utah. However, the results of his personal commitment of excellence in education will forever remain in the minds and spirit of the citizens of the hills of northwest Georgia and northeast Alabama. We are forever grateful for the years he has given to us, and we wish him much success in his new endeavors.

RENEWAL FUNDING FOR HOMELESS RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2000*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, just recently, the President signed into law the Military Construction Appropriations conference report. This bill includes critically needed funding to renew rental housing assistance for very low income disabled, veterans, mentally ill, and other families and individuals at risk of homelessness.

Late last year, some 40 projects nationwide did not receive renewal of expiring grants

under either the Shelter Plus Care or SHP Permanent housing programs as part of the McKinney Act homeless program funding awards for fiscal year 1999. As a result, thousands of families—including 180 in Erie County in the area I represent—were at risk of having their entail subsidies expire at some time this year.

In response, in February of this year, I introduced H.R. 3613, legislation to provide emergency one-year funding for these expired and unrenewed projects out of the Section 8 Housing Certificate account. This legislation was later offered as an amendment by the Ranking Member of the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee to the House Supplemental Appropriations bill, and the amendment was adopted.

The good news is that the MilCon conference report provides funding to renew all these projects for one year, as proposed in my legislation. The bad news is that the Senate rejected the House approach of funding renewals from the Section 8 account, instead requiring that funding be taken from the fiscal year 2000 homeless program account.

This means that \$5 million less in critically needed homeless funds will be available later this year under the FY 2000 grant competition.

It also means that at least for now, we continue the year-to-year uncertainty families and grant applicants face with regard to renewals. As a result, we continue a policy that is incomprehensible: Automatically renewing rental assistance subsidies nationwide for all low-income families—with the sole exception being the most vulnerable, poorest families who receive rental assistance under the Shelter Plus Care and SHP Permanent housing homeless programs.

This fall, in the VA-HUD conference report, we will have a chance to get it right—that is, to renew Shelter Plus Care and SHP permanent housing renewals automatically out of the Section 8 account for both fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001, and to launch us down the path of doing this on a permanent basis in subsequent years.

Through both the supplemental spending bill and the recently passed fiscal year 2001 VA-HUD bill, the House has affirmed its support for renewing these grants through the Section 8 account. I urge the Senate to accede to this very reasonable approach.

In any event, I am pleased that this bill gives-at-risk families assurance of assistance for another year, while we work out this issue.

BIG BAND SOCIETY CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2000*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the efforts of the Big Band Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this week.

The names of landmark recording artists such as Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, the Dorsey Brothers and Duke Ellington, may not meet with instant recognition with those Americans who grew up with MTV. But for millions of music lovers, those artists represent the beloved sounds of their generation.

The Big Band Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania is to be commended for keeping this musical tradition alive. One way they do this is by holding their annual gala dance each summer at the Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas, Pennsylvania.

Under the leadership of dedicated people like Pat Perillo, its president, and Charlie Aten, its treasurer, this organization, with its devoted members, has drummed along tirelessly to promote the tunes and the personalities of the Big Band era and to bring that original sound and enduring spirit to younger audiences.

Mr. Speaker, for many Americans, the Big Band sound is much more than a style of music—it is uniquely American and evokes moving memories for a generation filled with patriotism, pride and love of country.

I am pleased to honor the Big Band Society for their part in keeping alive this important tradition of our nation's culture. I send my best wishes to the members of the Society on their 30th anniversary as well as my wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE PUERTO RICAN PARADE AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2000*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the activities of the Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Organization of Northwest Indiana. On Sunday, July 16, 2000, I had the privilege of attending this year's kickoff of the organization's festivities, at the Puerto Rican Dia Del Camp Kickoff Picnic in East Chicago, Indiana. On Thursday, July 20, 2000, the organization will be hosting its 18th Annual Dignitary Banquet at Hijos de Borinquen in East Chicago, Indiana. The annual celebration for Northwest Indiana's Puerto Rican community will culminate on July 22, 2000, with the traditional festival at East Chicago's Block Stadium, and the community parade on July 23, 2000.

I especially would like to congratulate Ms. Betty Paine, President of the Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Organization of Northwest Indiana, as well as all other members for their time-honored dedication to the preservation of their Puerto Rican heritage. Joining the celebration at the Dignitary Banquet will be Mayor Luis Oliver, of Lares, Puerto Rico, and Jose Luis Gonzalez, Director of the Tourism Board in Lares.

The history of Puerto Rico is one of great pride and honor. In 1493 Columbus found the island of Borinquen (the Amerindian name for Puerto Rico) to be inhabited by Taino Indians, a subgroup of the Arawak thought to have arrived on the island 1,000 years before from South America. The Taino Indians who greeted Columbus showed him gold nuggets in the river and told him to take all he wanted. The town founded near this river was named Puerto Rico, or "rich port," with the island being named "San Juan Bautista," for St. John the Baptist. It was not until later that the two names were switched.

The rich culture of the people of Puerto Rico evolved progressively over the centuries. Immigrants brought influences from Europe, Africa, Asia, and other Caribbean islands to Puerto Rico, and blended them to create a unique