

Finally, with all that is good in H.R. 5640, I am, however, disappointed that it abandons a key provision of H.R. 1776 which would make available a 1% down FHA mortgage loan for qualified teachers, police, fire fighters and municipal employers when purchasing a home in the community they serve. Congressional Budget Office estimates show that, over a five-year period, this provision would provide 125,000 new loans, helping rebuild and strengthen neighborhoods.

I urge my colleagues to open and expand the opportunity of homeownership by supporting this important bi-partisan legislation.

TRIBUTE TO LARS-ERIK NELSON

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, together with so many Americans—particularly New Yorkers—I was deeply saddened by the tragic and untimely passing of Lars-Erik Nelson. Lars was a uniquely gifted journalist of unsurpassed integrity and courage.

I will be eternally grateful that I was able to call Lars my friend—for he was a friend in every sense of the word. Whether it was discussing the issues of the day, demonstrating concern for someone else's health problems or giving an encouraging word, Lars was always there.

Although he had every right to do so, Lars never took himself seriously. Very simply, it was always a delight to be in his company. When my wife Rosemary was in Washington, she and I would enjoy getting together with Lars and his wife Mary for dinner. Lars was raconteur, gourmet and wine connoisseur. What better way could there be to spend an evening? Just several days before he died, Lars and I were trying to schedule dinner in the upcoming week. It was not meant to be.

I will cherish personal memories of Lars. Sitting with him at my first Gridiron Dinner. Meeting with him and Gerry Adams in Washington during a key moment in the Irish Peace Process. Having lunch with him in the House Dining Room and listening to his calm reflections during the impeachment debate. His writing an overly complimentary blurb for a novel I wrote.

But mostly I will remember a man who was a true giant as a journalist and a friend—a man of innate decency. A man who will be sorely missed by any who had the opportunity to know him.

May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MURPHY

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bob Murphy, publisher of the Hamilton Journal-News, of Hamilton, Ohio, the largest newspaper in my District.

For more than four decades, Bob has been in the business of keeping citizens informed about what's happening in their community, country, and the world around them. He has

been in the newspaper business for more than 42 years and has been publisher of the Journal-News since January 1, 1994. Before that, he was publisher of the Middletown Journal, another newspaper in the 8th District, from October 1981 through December 1993, when he was appointed to his current post.

Before coming to Middletown in 1981, Bob had been publisher of the Times-West Virginian in Fairmont, West Virginia, for three years. Before that, he had been general manager of the Dominion-Post in Morgantown, West Virginia, for six years.

Bob started in the newspaper business in the late 1950s in his hometown, Bayonne, New Jersey, with the Bayonne Times. He worked there for 13 years, seven of them as vice president and general manager.

Educated in local schools in Bayonne, Bob went on to Cornell University on a Teagle Scholarship. He graduated with a degree in economics and later received an MBA in personnel administration from New York University.

He served in the Army for two years, most of that time in Munich, Germany, with the Counter Intelligence Corps. Bob and his wife, Mary Jane, have six children.

I have known Bob Murphy for a long time. You always know where you stand with him—a trait that has won my respect and that of countless others during his long career. Bob's commitment to bringing the news accurately, fairly, and comprehensively is reflected in the legacy of success he leaves behind. I am honored to stand before the House today to pay tribute to Bob Murphy as our community says thanks and bids good luck to a dedicated public servant.

COMMEMORATING THE FAMINE OF
1932-33

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, on November 18, 2000, more than 1,500 participants gathered in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City to commemorate the 67th Anniversary of the 1932-1933 Ukrainian Famine.

Unlike other famines, this was not caused by a lack of food. Instead, Joseph Stalin created the famine by confiscating all of Ukraine's crops and withholding it from the people. The Kremlin intended to destroy the spirit of the Ukrainian peasants by starving them to death. Moscow perceived Ukraine's cultural renaissance as a threat to a Russo-Centric Soviet rule and therefore enacted the famine to crush their nationalism in a most brutal manner.

Peasants in Ukraine could not escape these horrible conditions. An internal passport system prevented them from crossing the border into Russia or the Belarusian republic, where there was no famine. In Ukrainian regions such as Poltava and Kharkiv, people died in their homes or collapsed on the street. Animals were consumed, even the bark disappeared from the trees.

The death toll from the 1932-1933 famine is estimated between seven and ten million victims. No real record exists. However, studies show at the height of the famine, Ukrainian villagers were dying at the rate of 25,000 per

day, 1,000 per hour, and 17 per minute. At the same time, the Soviet regime was unloading 1.7 million tons of grain on Western markets.

Ukraine has paid a high price for its independence and freedom and this famine symbolizes one of the horrors of the old soviet system.

IN SUPPORT OF S. 1972 AND S. 2594

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1972, legislation to convey to the town of Dolores, Colorado the site of Joe Rowell Park, and S. 2594, legislation to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to contract with the Mancos, Colorado water conservancy district to use its water facilities.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Rowell Park in Dolores, Colorado is a focal point of the community. This 24-acre park provides the Town of Dolores with a place for baseball and soccer games, a playground and a restful, beautiful spot for recreation. The property is currently owned by the United States Forest Service and leased to the Town of Dolores, which has invested over \$400,000 to improve Joe Rowell Park. This investment created the only lit baseball and softball fields in the Forest Service's inventory. However, the leasing arrangement has caused management difficulties for both parties involved. As a result, the Forest Service determined that Joe Rowell Park is suitable for conveyance into non-federal ownership by the Town of Dolores. I commend my colleague, Senator WAYNE ALLARD for offering this legislation to streamline the management of this important park in Dolores, Colorado and support the passage of this bill.

I also rise in strong support of S. 2594, legislation that would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to contract with the Mancos, Colorado water conservancy district to use the Mancos project facilities to store and wheel non-project water for irrigation and domestic, municipal and industrial uses.

This legislation would allow the Mancos, Colorado water conservancy district to continue to contract to carry non-project water, which has become a normal operational procedure at the facility. Using Mancos' excess capacity encourages more efficient water management on project lands and more flexible use of the project's facilities.

I am pleased to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO GALE VAN HOY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Gale Van Hoy, the current executive secretary of the Texas State Building and Construction Trades Council. Mr. Van Hoy will retire on December 31, 2000, and I thought it fitting to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a mention of his contributions to Texas. He has served the working men and women of Texas well, and I thank him for that.