

ground. As a result of this dastardly action, New London has few structures remaining from the pre-Revolutionary era.

Following the war, New London was rebuilt and maritime commerce resumed. As the 19th century progressed, manufacturing increased and New London began to take advantage of new markets up and down the east coast via the New Haven and New London Railroad. During World War I and II, New London once again played an important role as training center for service personnel. New London has been closely associated with national defense throughout the 20th century due to its proximity of the Naval Submarine Base and submarine-builder Electric Boat on the opposite bank of the Thames River. Moreover, New London has been home to the Coast Guard Academy since 1910.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor New London on its 350th anniversary it retains many of the attributes which have distinguished it for more than three centuries. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the State and local officials, our congressional delegation and others, important port facilities are being rehabilitated. These improvements will allow New London to resume its position among the most important ports along the eastern seaboard. Whale oil has been replaced by high-tech products bound for markets across the country and around the globe. Commercial fishermen leave New London every morning bound for Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. Much like they did 300 years ago, residents and visitors continue to stroll through the historic district along State, Water and Bank Streets and the waterfront of Shaw's Cove.

On this truly special occasion, the residents of New London have a right to be proud. Their city is among a select few in the Nation to reach this milestone. This community has endured through good times and bad, war and peace and prosperity and despair. Its citizens have built an incredible legacy which I know our great grandchildren will celebrate on New London's 450th anniversary. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the city of New London on this special occasion.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 641,  
RYAN WHITE CARE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, this bill is long overdue, and it's the least we can do for those of our fellow citizens suffering from HIV and AIDS. I want to thank the conferees for this good final product and this step forward in the long fight against this disease.

In the Denver metro area, nearly 6,000 Coloradans and their families struggle with HIV or AIDS every day. For them, Ryan White programs provide some hope and some small measure of security.

As we take this good step today, we should also keep our eye on the ultimate goal of unlocking the secrets of this disease and someday making these Ryan White programs as obsolete as the iron lung. The research mission here has begun producing real results

and fresh hope, and we should rededicate ourselves to that effort today.

This isn't a perfect bill, and I do have concerns about the provisions that could lead us down the path to mandatory HIV testing. While it's good for physicians to encourage testing, for the sake of children and mothers at risk, we must guard against the unintended and unwanted effect of discouraging women from getting the help they need. The bill does give us a couple of years of breathing room on this, and I hope we reexamine this issue with the attention it deserves.

That significant issue aside, this bill meets a dire need, and I urge my colleagues to support it—along with the other prevention and research components that are just as crucial to the fight against HIV and AIDS.

HONORING THE PLEASANT SHADE  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Pleasant Shade Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

THE PUBLIC HOUSING THAT  
SUCCEEDS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I read an article so relevant to our work, and so thoughtful and informative, that I write a short gloss highlighting its main points and have it printed here so our colleagues can benefit from it.

Occasionally, I come across an article so insightful and compelling that it would be pre-

sumptuous to summarize or paraphrase it. Nicholas Lemann's brilliant rebuttal of Senator DOLE's attack on Government funded housing is such a piece.

I ask that it be printed here so that Members can read it before our debate and votes on the Housing bill tomorrow.

[The article follows:]

THE PUBLIC HOUSING THAT SUCCEEDS

(By Nicholas Lemann)

PELHAM, N.Y.—One of the endearing things about Senator Bob Dole is that he is so quintessentially the consensus-oriented legislator that his forays into the realm of wedge issues always have a tinny, false feeling, as if he isn't emotionally connected to the words coming out of his own mouth. His statement last week that American public housing "is one of the last bastions of socialism in the world" is a good example. It's hard to believe that Mr. Dole was candidly revealing his most deeply held views.

Still, the idea that public housing has failed and should be abolished is something many Americans believe. High-rise public housing projects such as the notoriously dangerous and bleak Robert Taylor Homes in Chicago are the leading visual symbol of the idea that liberal Government programs, especially antipoverty programs, don't work and may actually cause poverty to increase.

If public housing were in fact a bankrupt and doomed idea, it would be a very sad end to the oldest and most visible strategy in the struggle against poverty. Jacob Riis' "How the Other Half Lives," published in 1890 and arguably the first American book to propose a plan for improving conditions in urban slums, ended with a call for the construction of "model tenements." If Mr. Dole is right, the whole antipoverty cause would be powerfully undermined.

The truth, however, is that housing for the poor stands out among antipoverty strategies as the area where the most progress has been made over the past generation and where there is the most cause for optimism. Senator Dole's comments were so completely wrong that they could help bring a halt to genuine progress rather than pull the plug on something unworkable.

Before the World War II, public housing in America was considered a great success. It "worked" in the sense of being clean, safe and, for most residents, a huge improvement over the slums where they had been living. There were long waiting lists for apartments.

One reason for the projects' good reputation was that their constituency was not the very poor but people with jobs one notch higher on the economic ladder. (Probably the most famous product of the public housing of that era is Elvis Presley.) Most projects wouldn't admit single parents, and many wouldn't admit welfare recipients. Virtually all maintained strict rules about keeping apartments and hallways neat and about who was allowed to be where when. Those who broke the rules or committed crimes were swiftly kicked out.

Then in the late 1940's, the nation embarked on the course that led to the perception that public housing doesn't work: the construction of enormous high-rise projects. It wasn't just the architecture, or the mere presence of Government subsidies, that caused these places to go so horribly awry. There was also a big change in the tenant population, from carefully screened working people to the very poor. Because of changes in Federal rules, people who got jobs actually had to leave the building, and it became nearly impossible to kick out tenants who were criminals.

Even so, it's not all public housing that doesn't work. It's just the large-scale, all-