

throughout the Nation move block-by-block to provide new homes in America's low-income neighborhoods and, at the same time, reinvigorate communities. To underscore these successes, Habitat for Humanity International, Local Initiatives Support Corporation [LISC], the Enterprise Foundation, and the National NeighborWorks® Network are joining together to make an unprecedented commitment and challenge that will touch the lives of millions of people in communities across the country.

Today, these four organizations announced a multibillion-dollar commitment to develop safe, decent, and affordable housing and have challenged Congress and the Nation to join them in this deeper commitment.

The \$13 billion commitment is projected to generate 193,800 affordable homes and apartments in 2,475 urban, suburban, and rural communities. The homes they will provide range from remodeling and modernizing multi-family apartment buildings to constructing new homes for sale to low-income families. The initiative will touch neighborhoods across the country in farm towns and in dense urban inner cities. Tens of thousands of jobs will be created and tens of billions of dollars in private investment will be stimulated.

And, Mr. Speaker, knowing of the past successes of each of these nonprofits, I am convinced that their commitment to this initiative will result in the exciting goals they have set for themselves.

Congress can be an active partner in reaching these goals by continuing to provide the necessary tools to enable individuals, corporate leaders, philanthropic institutions, and others to continue to expand their support of providing more affordable homes. For example, programs like the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Community Development Block Grants, the Community Reinvestment Act, the Earned Income Tax Credit, Rural Homeownership, HOME and Housing Opportunity Program are just a few of the programs that are uniquely effective and efficient in channeling private resources into community renewal and stretching scarce public dollars.

I am pleased to join these organizations in celebrating these success stories and call upon my colleagues to make housing issues a priority in their legislative agendas.

TOM NEWSHAM: A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF HONOR AND INTEGRITY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the strength of this country rests among a select group of men and women that are entrusted with the responsibility of public safety. These individuals put their own lives at risk to that neighborhoods across the country are kept safe and citizens in these neighborhoods feel personally secure.

I would like to take this time to commend a man of great honor and integrity that has devoted his life to keeping communities safe. This man is Bay County deputy sheriff Thomas A. Newsham, who has served as a police officer in Michigan for over 20 years.

In 1974 Tom started his career in law enforcement when he was hired at the Bay

County Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff for road patrol. Tom performed admirably in this position for many years and received number distinctions along the way. These include a Meritorious Service Award for excellence and dedication and an Exemplary Service Award for his work at a crisis hotline.

In 1984 Tom was promoted to sergeant II on road patrol and shortly thereafter received a supervisory certificate at the Law Enforcement Officer Training Council. As Tom was moving up professionally, he began to devote more time to a personal priority of his—keeping children off drugs. Tom committed himself to learning how to counsel kids to stay off drugs through Drug Abuse Resistance Education and D.A.R.E. instruction. In 1995 Tom became a D.A.R.E. officer, going to different schools to talk to kids about their opportunities in life and to discourage them from using drugs.

At the same time, Tom was taking classes in community policing services from Lansing Community College, earned his B.A. from Saginaw Valley State University and received advanced training in critical incident stress debriefing.

This month, Tom is retiring from the Bay County Sheriff's Department and I think all would agree that we are losing an outstanding law enforcement officer who combines skill, professionalism, and compassion. I want to thank Tom for his years of service to the community which I represent here in Congress and to wish him all the best in his retirement years.

TRIBUTE TO BARB McTURK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to honor the hard work and strong leadership of one of our party's most dedicated volunteers. For the past 4 years, Barb McTurk has served as vice chairwoman of the Colorado Republican Party, and for the past 2 she has served simultaneously as its volunteer executive director. Since taking office in 1993, Ms. McTurk has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Republican Party and its candidates. She has striven to advance the principles of the Republican Party while maintaining the highest level of integrity and earning the respect of friend and foe alike. Her record of achievement is truly impressive.

Ms. McTurk's work has resulted in Republican gains across Colorado as well as an increase in voter participation—an essential element of our representative process. Our gains in registered Republican voters, gains in the State legislative majority and gains in Republican held statewide elected offices are due in large part to the Herculean efforts of Barb McTurk. These gains have elevated the Colorado Republican Party to its strongest level in years.

Mr. Speaker, the political process depends on the hard work of volunteers as well as the ability of all of us to engage in constructive and informative political discourse. As Barb McTurk ends her tenure as chairwoman of the Colorado Republican party, I, along with the

rest of the Republicans in the Colorado congressional delegation, want to thank her for her commitment to our cause and convey our utmost respect which she so rightfully deserves.

**INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT
AMENDMENTS OF 1997**

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am cosponsoring the Indian Child Welfare Act Amendments of 1997, a timely bill that reflects a carefully crafted compromise between the interests of Indian tribes seeking to protect their culture and heritage and the interests of non-Indians seeking greater clarity and security in the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

This bill is virtually the same bill that I cosponsored last year along with the chairman of the Resources Committee, Representative DON YOUNG, and the bill is the direct result of several high-profile adoption cases involving the adoption of Indian children. These cases, involving lengthy disputes under the Indian Child Welfare Act, focused our attention on whether the act fairly, and to the greatest degree possible, took into account the best interests of the children, the parents, and the tribes.

In the last Congress, early attempts to rectify these problems were misdirected and would have amended the Indian Child Welfare Act to severely limit its scope and the protections it affords Indian children, parents, and tribes. The first proposed amendments to the act were drafted without any input at all by Indian tribes or by members of the committee of jurisdiction, the Resources Committee. The amendments survived a close vote on the House floor, but failed to make it out of committee in the Senate.

Recognizing the need for legislation, however, we immediately initiated discussions with Indian tribes to lay the foundation for compromise legislation. The tribes in turn prepared draft legislation that was then shared and negotiated with adoption professionals, including attorneys, who ultimately endorsed the new legislation. Proponents of the compromise legislation now include the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and Jane Gorman, the attorney who represented the family in the Rost case.

This bill is intended to strengthen the act, to protect the lives and future of Indian children first and foremost. This bill was crafted not only with the input of the tribes but also with the input of the attorney for the Rost family, whose well-publicized case was one of the adoption cases that sparked this debate. We understand that to a few parties on either side of the debate this bill may not seem perfect. Few compromises are. But what this bill does is truly important. This bill helps Indian children by providing allowing adoptions to move forward quickly and with greater certainty. This bill places limitations on when Indian tribes and families may intervene in the adoption process. Yet at the same time, this bill protects the fundamental rights of tribal sovereignty.