

Florida skyline. Stiltsville began in the 1940s with the Quarterdeck Club, a beautiful locale featured in Life magazine for its unique architecture and location on the northernmost extreme of pristine Biscayne National Park.

By 1960, at least 25 structures existed which represented distinctive architectural facades with brightly colored wood frame buildings resting on steel foundations. Stiltsville served for many years as the backdrop for many television shows, movies, books, and advertisements, including the long-running television show "Miami Vice." It has been a favorite of movie makers, of boaters, and tourists alike because of its unique features and its frame against the Miami skyline. Unfortunately, due to the hurricanes that often plague our south Florida shores, only seven of the original 25 structures remain intact today.

Stiltsville homes are privately owned and represent no cost at all to the Florida taxpayers. These seven remaining structures have now been equipped with especially engineered features which have been adapted to meet the rigors of a hurricane-prone area.

The remaining seven homes provide not only aesthetic beauty for the landscape but a haven for fish and other sea life that inhabit the area. For boaters and fishermen, Stiltsville is often used as a navigational guide and as a shelter for many during storms.

For Floridians, Stiltsville symbolizes the Miami of yesterday and the Miami of today. In fact, Florida governors since Governor Leroy Collins have spent time at Stiltsville. Many of our local civic and charity groups have used these homes, including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Miami Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club, just to name a few.

For many of our cities across our Nation, there are local historical sites that give our cities character and that make them unique. For south Florida, Stiltsville is one of those places that gives our community flavor and keeps us linked to the history of our great State.

It is unfortunate, however, that in spite of the historical and cultural symbolism that Stiltsville holds for all of Florida, it is looking at the possibility of being demolished by the National Park Service. Its current lease with Biscayne National Park expires on July 1 of this year, and a recent petition for national historic designation was denied even though Stiltsville is regularly a part of the South Florida Historical Association Tours.

The Dade Heritage Trust, which is Miami-Dade County's largest historic preservation society, has worked for almost 30 years to preserve landmarks that enrich the texture of our city's present and future, and the benchmark used by the Dade Heritage Trust for judging structures to be historic is 50 years. Yet an exception has been made for Stiltsville because the members know that the colorful origins of the

community itself dating back to the 1930s and 1940s make it a wonderful component of Miami history.

Even the State Historic Preservation Officer of Florida has supported a National Register nomination for Stiltsville. According to noted historian Arva Moore Parks, Stiltsville is a very fragile piece of history worthy of salvage. And certainly many of us in south Florida share that sentiment.

In our district, with the help of dozens of local organizations, such as Save Old Stiltsville, the Florida Department of State, the University of Miami, and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, we have begun an effort to ensure that Stiltsville will remain a part of Miami's history and that future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty that Stiltsville adds to Biscayne Bay.

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Together, we hope to make this dream a very real part of south Florida and our State and our country for years and generations to come.

FORMER SPEAKER GINGRICH VINDICATED—BUT NO ONE KNOWS IT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I come to correct the record, for a politically motivated injustice. It is titled "Newt Gingrich Vindicated, But No One Knows It," by Brent Bozell. I would like to read and summarize this article for the RECORD on an issue of basic justice.

"The judgement is in. After 3½ years of investigation, the Internal Revenue Service has cleared Newt Gingrich and his allied nonprofit groups of any violation of tax laws in the controversy over his television history course, 'Renewing American Civilization.'

"So after having run countless news reports highlighting the accusations that ultimately forced Newt Gingrich to pay \$300,000 in fines," did the media correct the record?

I would like to let my colleagues, maybe for the first time, understand and know what Newt Gingrich was about. In our Republican Conference, the then Speaker, Newt Gingrich, and his lawyers met with the entire conference. They said that he would be exonerated 100 percent in this. There was no chance of him being found guilty. But it would take one or more years of court trials and dragging the Republican Party through this event. The Speaker stood up and said, "I am not going to do this, because we are focusing on a balanced budget, on saving Medicare, on having welfare reform, and having tax relief. And if I go through this court case and don't give the Democrats their pound of flesh by paying this fine, then we will not have

a balanced budget or save Medicare or have welfare reform." And he agreed to pay that fine. That is the kind of a gentleman Newt Gingrich is.

Do you think that the news media after this was announced did anything or said one word? Let me quote from the article again.

"ABC, CBS and NBC devoted exactly zero seconds to Newt Gingrich's vindication. Only CNN's Brooks Jackson filed a TV report, on the early-evening show 'Inside Politics.'

"He then showed old footage of Democrats David Bonior of Michigan, in which he said, 'Mr. Gingrich engaged in a pattern of tax fraud,' and John Lewis of Georgia, 'We now have a Speaker under investigation for lying to the outside counsel investigating his involvement in a massive tax fraud.'

"Jackson quoted from the IRS decision: 'The (Gingrich "Renewing American Civilization") course taught principles from American civilization that could be used by each American in everyday life, whether the person is a welfare recipient, the head of a large corporation or a politician. The course was not biased toward particular politicians or a particular party. The facts show the class was much more than a political platform.' Of course, that was clear to anyone who watched the course."

And I quote from Mr. Gingrich: I urge my colleagues, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), "I urge my colleagues to go back and read their statements and watch how they said them with no facts, based on nothing more than a desire, and I quote, to politically destroy a colleague."

The article continues. "But the damage wasn't done simply by devious politicians. It was done by the media itself. National Public Radio reporter Mara Liasson justified the event by saying that he only did what Newt Gingrich did to Jim Wright. 'Bonior learned his lesson from him,' she said.

"To appreciate the media's antagonism—then, now and probably forever—toward Newt Gingrich, compare their treatment of him with their coverage of a real crook, Webster Hubbell. They roasted Newt when he was charged and then ignored him when he was cleared. Hubbell was celebrated when he was cleared of tax evasion charges filed by Ken Starr, but when a Federal court reinstated the charges on appeal, the networks aired no coverage.

"Let's get this straight. Webster Hubbell embezzled half a million dollars from his law firm partners in Arkansas. After he resigned from the Justice Department in disgrace, the President's friends paid him almost another million dollars for, quote, supposed jobs that asked for no work, money he pays next to zero taxes on."

I would ask my colleagues to take a look at what they said in this well, and I would ask them to apologize publicly and in writing to the Speaker.