

As one might expect, the members of the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild are modest about their contributions. As JoEllen Moulton, one of their leading members remarked, "Others have given so much more than us."

Nonetheless, for the wounded servicemen and servicewomen at Walter Reed hospital, I am certain that the arrival of a handmade quilt was a pleasant surprise and a source of comfort. This contribution from the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild in the small town of Atlanta, Michigan was, indeed, a big accomplishment and, Mr. Speaker, I ask you and the U.S. House of Representatives to join me on this Flag Day in thanking these patriotic, dedicated quilters for their work.

RECOGNIZING LANDON CRAWFORD
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Landon Crawford, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 102, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Landon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Landon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Landon Crawford for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

KOFI ANNAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON
IMMIGRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an article by Mr. Kofi A. Annan, the secretary general of the United Nations. In the article, titled *In Praise of Migration*, published in the *Wall Street Journal* on June 6, 2006, Mr. Annan extols the benefits of transnational migration for both the country of origin and the receiving country.

In receiving countries migrants perform essential tasks that residents are unwilling to undertake. Generally they pay more to the state in taxes than they take out in welfare and other benefits. "Nearly half the increase in the number of migrants aged 25 or over in industrialized countries was made up of highly skilled people" who have added talent and dexterity to our economy by strengthening the workforce.

Migrants strengthen the economy of their country of origin as well. "Migrants sent remittances, which totaled around \$232 billion last year, \$167 billion of which went to developing countries—greater in volume than current lev-

els of official aid from all donor countries combined"—that are vital contributions to economy of the nation of origin. Migrants also encourage investment in their country of origin and are generally willing to supervise and direct these endeavors, leading to increased trade relations.

Irregular or undocumented migrants are most vulnerable to smugglers, traffickers, and other forms of manipulation. If the host government chooses to criminalize those who assist these people in the name of humanity, they will completely be at the mercy of such exploitations. Essentially, we are throwing them to the wolves with the proposed House passed immigration bill. While immigration is not without drawbacks, I condemn the inhumane policies proposed by the bill passed by the House.

[From the *Wall Street Journal*, June 6, 2006]

IN PRAISE OF MIGRATION—NATIONS THAT
WELCOME IMMIGRANTS ARE THE MOST DYNAMIC
IN THE WORLD

(By Kofi A. Annan)

Ever since national frontiers were invented, people have been crossing them—not just to visit foreign countries, but to live and work there. In doing so, they have almost always taken risks, driven by a determination to overcome adversity and to live a better life. Those aspirations have always been the motors of human progress. Historically, migration has improved the well-being, not only of individual migrants, but of humanity as a whole.

And that is still true. In a report that I am presenting tomorrow to the U.N. General Assembly, I summarize research which shows that migration, at least in the best cases, benefits not only the migrants themselves but also the countries that receive them, and even the countries they have left. How so? In receiving countries, incoming migrants do essential jobs which a country's established residents are reluctant to undertake. They provide many of the personal services on which societies depend. They care for children, the sick and the elderly, bring in the harvest, prepare the food, and clean the homes and offices.

They are not engaged only in menial activities. Nearly half the increase in the number of migrants aged 25 or over in industrialized countries in the 1990s was made up of highly skilled people. Skilled or unskilled, many are entrepreneurs who start new businesses—from round-the-clock delis to Google. Yet others are artists, performers and writers, who help to make their new hometowns centers of creativity and culture. Migrants also expand the demand for goods and services, add to national production, and generally pay more to the state in taxes than they take out in welfare and other benefits. And in regions like Europe, where populations are growing very slowly or not at all, younger workers arriving from abroad help to shore up underfunded pension systems.

All in all, countries that welcome migrants and succeed in integrating them into their societies are among the most dynamic—economically, socially and culturally—in the world.

Meanwhile, countries of origin benefit from the remittances that migrants send home, which totaled around \$232 billion last year, \$167 billion of which went to developing countries—greater in volume than current levels of official aid from all donor countries combined, though certainly not a substitute. Not only do the immediate recipients benefit from these remittances, but also those who supply the goods and services on which the

money is spent. The effect is to raise national income and stimulate investment.

Families with members working abroad spend more on education and health care at home. If they are poor—like the family in the classic Senegalese film, "Le Mandat"—receiving remittances may introduce them to financial services, such as banks, credit unions and microfinance institutions. More and more governments understand that their citizens abroad can help development, and are strengthening ties with them. By allowing dual citizenship, permitting overseas voting, expanding consular services and working with migrants to develop their home communities, governments are multiplying the benefits of migration. In some countries, migrant associations are transforming their communities of origin by sending collective remittances to support small-scale development projects.

Successful migrants often become investors in their countries of origin, and encourage others to follow. Through the skills they acquire, they also help transfer technology and knowledge. India's software industry has emerged in large part from intensive networking among expatriates, returning migrants and Indian entrepreneurs both at home and abroad. After working in Greece, Albanians bring home new agricultural skills that allow them to increase production. And so on.

Yes, migration can have its downside—though ironically some of the worst effects arise from efforts to control it: It is irregular or undocumented migrants who are most vulnerable to smugglers, traffickers and other forms of exploitation. Yes, there are tensions when established residents and migrants are adjusting to each other, especially when their beliefs, customs or level of education are very different. And yes, poor countries suffer when some of their people whose skills are most needed—for instance health-care workers from southern Africa—are "drained" away by higher salaries and better conditions abroad.

But countries are learning to manage those problems, and they can do so better if they work together and learn from each other's experience. That is the object of the "high-level dialogue" on migration and development that the General Assembly is holding this September. No country will be asked or expected to yield control of its borders or its policies to anyone else. But all countries and all governments can gain from discussion and the exchange of ideas. That's why I hope the September dialogue will be a beginning, not an end.

As long as there are nations, there will be migrants. Much as some might wish it otherwise, migration is a fact of life. So it is not a question of stopping migration, but of managing it better, and with more cooperation and understanding on all sides. Far from being a zero-sum game, migration can be made to yield benefits for all.