

This problem is particularly serious in underdeveloped countries. A total of 22 countries are home to 80 percent of TB cases. Tuberculosis is particularly prevalent in India, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Russia, and parts of Latin America. The problem with TB poses a long term threat to global health. It is estimated that, if efforts to fight TB are not strengthened, 3 5 million people will die of the disease in the next 20 years.

H. Res. 67 addresses many of these problems. The bill recognizes the importance of combating TB on a worldwide basis and acknowledges the severe impact that TB has on minority populations in the US. By passing the resolution, we are recognizing the importance of substantially increasing US investment in international TB control. The bill also emphasizes the importance of efforts to eliminate TB in our own nation.

It is my hope that by passing this resolution, Congress will make a commitment to fighting TB both on the national and global level.

CELEBRATING GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 180th anniversary of Greek Independence. Almost two centuries ago this month, the Greeks rose up against the Ottoman Empire to establish a modern Greek state. Greeks and Greek Americans everywhere can look back proudly on the accomplishments of their people over the last 180 years. But Americans also owe a large debt to Greece for its friendship and democratic traditions. All Americans should take time on this anniversary to reflect on the shared values, traditions and history of the United States and the Hellenic Republic.

When our founding fathers in this country sought inspiration for our democracy, they looked back to the republics of ancient Greece. The Greeks, likewise, looked to the United States for inspiration and support as they sought to establish their own independent nation. Since that time, many Greeks came to the United States in search of freedom and opportunity—so many, that for a time in the early twentieth century, one out of every four young Greek men came to the United States. Their contributions have been felt in the Arts, the Sciences, and government.

Greece itself has also been a true friend of the United States. From Greece's valiant resistance of Nazi Germany in World War Two, to her efforts supporting the world community in the Gulf War, Greece has stood beside the United States. This cooperation is based not just on shared interests, but on the stronger bond of shared values. And when these values have been threatened, the Greek nation has stepped forward to defend these values, even when it means risking the lives of her sons and daughters.

I mention this because the United States should not take this commitment lightly. Just

as we here in America hesitate before we send our troops in harm's way, so do other democracies. Yet, over the last century, Greece has stood by the United States. The United States needs to stand by Greece.

As a mature democracy, Greece is our strongest ally in a region in turmoil. "While relations have improved between Greece and Turkey, real issues remain between these two historic antagonists. Cyprus, the Aegean Islands, and the treatment of minorities in Turkey are all issues that demand resolution. This administration must compel the Turkish government to negotiate in good faith on these contentious issues. I call upon President Bush to maintain the commitment to Greece embraced by his predecessors, and insist that Turkey demonstrate that it will work to build a new relationship with Greece.

THE HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP
ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, all across America, in the small towns and great cities of this country, our heritage as a nation—the physical evidence of our past—is at risk. In virtually every corner of this land, homes in which grandparents and parents grew up, communities and neighborhoods that nurtured vibrant families, schools that were good places to learn and churches and synagogues that were filled on days of prayer, have suffered the ravages of abandonment and decay.

In the decade from 1980 to 1990, Chicago lost 41,000 housing units through abandonment, Philadelphia 10,000, and St. Louis 7,000. The story in our older small communities has been the same, and the trend continues. It is important to understand that it is not just the buildings we are losing. It is the sense of our past, the vitality of our communities and the shared values of those precious places.

We need not stand hopelessly by as passive witnesses to the loss of these irreplaceable historic resources. We can act, and to that end I am introducing today with a bipartisan group of my colleagues the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act.

This legislation is almost identical to legislation introduced in the 106th Congress as H.R. 1172, which enjoyed the broad bipartisan support of 225 cosponsors. It is patterned after the existing Historic Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit. That legislation has been enormously successful in stimulating private investment in the rehabilitation of buildings of historic importance all across the country. Through its use we have been able to save and re-use a rich and diverse array of historic buildings and landmarks such as Union Station in Washington, DC.; the Fox Paper Mills, a mixed-used project that was once derelict in Appleton, WI; and the Rosa True School, an eight-unit low/moderate income rental project in a historic building in Portland, Maine. In my own State of Florida, since 1974, the existing Historic Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit

has resulted in over 325 rehabilitation projects, leveraging more than \$238 million in private investment. These projects range from the restoration of art deco hotels in historic Miami Beach, bringing economic rebirth to this once decaying area, to the development of multi-family housing in the Springfield Historic District in Jacksonville.

The legislation that I am introducing today builds on the familiar structure of the existing tax credit but with a different focus. It is designed to empower the one major constituency that has been barred from using the existing credit—homeowners. Only those persons who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated home and occupy it as their principal residence would be entitled to the credit that this legislation would create. There would be no passive losses, no tax shelters, and no syndications under this bill.

Like the existing investment credit, the bill would provide a credit to homeowners equal to 20 percent of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures made on an eligible building that is used as a principal residence by the owner. Eligible buildings would be those that are listed on the National Register of Historic Register Historic Districts or in nationally certified state or local historic districts or are individually listed on a nationally certified state or local register. As is the case with the existing credit, the rehabilitation work would have to be performed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation, although the bill would clarify the directive that the standards be interpreted in a manner that takes into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

The bill also makes provision for lower-income home buyers who may not have sufficient federal income tax liability to use a tax credit. It would permit such persons to receive a historic rehabilitation mortgage credit certificate which they can use with their bank to obtain a lower interest rate on their mortgage. The legislation also permits home buyers in distressed areas to use the certificate to lower their down payment.

The credit would be available for condominiums and co-ops, as well as single-family buildings. If a building were to be rehabilitated by a developer for sale to a homeowner, the credit would pass through to the homeowner. Since one purpose of the bill is to provide incentives for middle-income and more affluent families to return to older towns and cities, the bill does not discriminate among taxpayers on the basis of income. It does, however, impose a cap of \$40,000 on the amount of credit which may be taken for a principal residence.

The Historic Homeownership Assistance Act will make ownership of a rehabilitated older home more affordable for homeowners of modest incomes. It will encourage more affluent families to claim a stake in older towns and neighborhoods. It affords fiscally stressed cities and towns a way to put abandoned buildings back on the tax roles, while strengthening their income and sales tax bases. It offers developers, realtors, and homebuilders a new realm of economic opportunity in revitalizing decaying buildings.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is no panacea. Although its goals are great, its reach will be modest. But it can make a difference, and an

important difference. In communities large and small all across this nation, the American dream of owning one's home is a powerful force. This bill can help it come true for those who are prepared to make a personal commitment to join in the rescue of our priceless heritage. By their actions they can help to revitalize decaying resources of historic importance, create jobs and stimulate economic development, and restore to our older towns and cities a lost sense of purpose and community.

I urge all Members of the House to review and support this important legislation, and I look forward to working with the Ways and Means Committee to enact this bill.

PRESERVING THE CULTURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to commend an outstanding group of Virgin Islanders—Helen George-Newton, Ava Stagger, Carol Stagger, Kenneth "Cisco" Francis and Renaldo Chinnery, who, as residents of New York, recognized the need to preserve and promote the culture of the Virgin Islands. In March of 1991, they officially established the Virgin Islands Freshwater Yankees, which was later incorporated as the Virgin Islands Freshwater Association, Inc.

The Association has grown to 75 dedicated members, who contribute to their Virgin Islands community through educational scholarships, supplying equipment to the health facilities on all three islands, helping our senior citizens and underprivileged children, and providing supplies during natural disasters or other emergencies occurring in the territory.

Although this organization is involved in many serious endeavors, they also find time to have fun and always take part in the annual carnival activities on St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John.

They also serve as an oasis for Virgin Islanders on the mainland by sponsoring yearly social events.

Their support and guidance has greatly assisted other Virgin Islands associations throughout the United States to continue to preserve the values that are the roots of their heritage in the cities which they have adopted as their second home.

For the past ten years, in commemoration of the day that the Virgin Islands were transferred from the Danish government to the United States, "Virgin Islands Transfer Day", this organization has honored outstanding citizens of Virgin Island descent in the area of sports, politics, education, health and community involvement. This year, the organization and all of its past honorees will be recognized at the Tenth Anniversary Transfer Day Dinner Dance to be held in New York City on March 31, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, please join me in recognizing and applauding The Virgin Islands Freshwater Association, Inc. as an outstanding model for community involvement and cultural preservation.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF 2001 INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH FINALISTS, ALAN MARK DUNN AND WILLIAM ABRAHAM PASTOR, OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alan Mark Dunn of Potomac and William Abraham Pastor of Rockville. These young men were finalists in the 2001 Intel Science Talent Search. The Intel Science Talent Search is America's oldest pre-college competition. Beginning in 1942 it was first sponsored by the Westinghouse Foundation. This competition provides an arena in which students are rewarded and recognized for their scientific endeavors.

Alan and William both traveled down a long road to become finalists. First, a team of approximately 100 evaluators, who are experts in their field are assembled to evaluate over 1600 entries. The initial evaluators then recommend approximately 500 entries to the Intel Science Talent Search board of judges. These judges then narrow the field to 300 semi-finalists. The board of judges then has the challenging task of selecting the 40 finalists.

The 40 finalists come to Washington, DC to attend the five-day Science Talent Institute. During these five days students meet with the board of judges to discuss various aspects of their projects. At the end of the Institute a black-tie gala is held in which the top-prize winners are announced.

Alan, who attends Montgomery Blair High School, won fourth place in this competition. He received a \$25,000 scholarship. He competed in the computer sciences by studying ways to optimize five encryption algorithms. His project is entitled "Optimization of Advanced Encryption Standard Candidate Algorithms for the Macintosh G4." The algorithms in his research are being considered for the federal government's Advanced Encryption Standard, which will replace the aging Data Encryption Standard. Alan, who hopes to study computer science or engineering in college, is also involved in many other activities. He is a member of the math and robotics club, plays guitar, takes karate and is an activist in a grass-roots superhighway campaign.

William, who also attends Montgomery Blair High School, was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship and a mobile computer as a finalist. He competed in the biochemistry division. His project studied the formation of fibrils, which are the primary component of the deposits found in the brain of Alzheimer patients. Beta-amyloid proteins combine to form long sheets which stack on top of each other to produce fibrils. He used a combination of experiment and computer modeling to understand and predict the orientation and stacking of beta-amyloid sheets in the fibrils. William, who earned a perfect score of his SATs is very active as president of the Democrats Club and the captain of the It's Academic team. He is also a stream monitor for the Audubon Society and led his school's International Knowledge

March 22, 2001

Master Open team to first place in world competition.

I am extremely proud to count these young men among my constituents. Their hard work and interest in the sciences is an example to their peers. I join with their parents, teachers and friends in congratulating them on their outstanding efforts and awards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the distinguished honor to welcome the President of the United States to my district of Orlando, Florida.

Together, we attended an event with 4,000 doctors from the American College of Cardiology at the Orange County Convention Center. At this gathering, we discussed the importance of passing a meaningful Patients Bill of Rights which will put doctors and their patients in charge of their medical decisions.

Unfortunately, because I was in Orlando, Florida with the President, I missed Roll Call votes 53, 54, and 55. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" for all three missed votes.

FEDERAL RECOGNITION PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN INDIAN GROUPS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to provide improved administrative procedures for the Federal recognition to certain Indian groups.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working on this issue now for several Congresses. In 1994, the House passed similar legislation but that effort died in the Senate. Last year, the Senate came closer to passing legislation to address this problem than did the House. In an effort to bring the two houses of Congress together, I am introducing a companion bill to S. 504, which was introduced by Senator CAMPBELL on March 9, 2001.

Despite the joint efforts of many Senators and Members of Congress over a period of years, we are still faced with an expensive, unfair process through which Indian groups seeking federal recognition must go. I wish to help address the historical wrongs that the two hundred unrecognized tribes in this nation have faced. This bill streamlines the existing procedures for extending federal recognition to Indian tribes, removes the bureaucratic maze of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and also provides due process, equity and fairness to the whole problem of Indian recognition.

Mr. Speaker, a broad coalition of unrecognized Indian tribes has advocated reform for years for several reasons. First, the BIA's budget limitations over the years have, in fact,