

**HONORING GRANDPARENT- AND OTHER RELATIVE-HEADED
HOUSEHOLDS -- (Extensions of Remarks - September 29, 2006)**

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SPEECH OF
HON. JOHN L. MICA
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

- Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to honor the grandparent- and other relative-headed households who have sacrificed to care for our Nation's children when the parents are unable to.
- Across the country there are more than 6 million minors living in grandparent- or other relative-headed households. Regardless of the reason children enter relative care--death of a parent, neglect, abuse, military deployment or poverty--it is never the fault of the child. I commend grandparents and other relatives who step forward to care for these children, keeping the children out of foster care while providing safe and stable homes, often at great personal sacrifice. Supportive programs like subsidized guardianship help children exit foster care into the permanent care of nurturing relatives.
- In my state of Florida, 9 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives. Grandparents and other relative caregivers are often the best chance for a loving and stable childhood for the children in their care, but their hard work and dedication often go unnoticed.
- Mr. Speaker, today I offer my formal acknowledgment and deepest appreciation for the ongoing service of these caregivers to our country and our Nation's most valuable asset, our children. I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing these everyday heroes.