

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN D.
GALLAGHER

HON. SIDNEY R. YATES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to report to the House that my constituent, Mr. Brian D. Gallagher of Evanston, IL, was graduated from Loyola University (Chicago) Law School on January 11, 1997, with a degree of LL.M. in child law. Mr. Gallagher is the first recipient of this advanced degree in the country.

While attending Loyola Law School in the evenings, Mr. Gallagher served the people of Cook County and the State of Illinois as an assistant to the commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Mr. Gallagher looks forward to using his new degree to continue his career of public service and I wish him every success in his future endeavors.

VOCATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CLUBS
OF AMERICA WEEK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the New York City Chapter of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America [VICA] which will celebrate Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Week in New York City, February 11-17, 1997. As a nationally recognized organization comprised of students, professional members, and dedicated teachers, the purpose of VICA is to provide educational and leadership opportunities for young people as they prepare for the 21st century.

Through the efforts of more than 12,000 student members in its New York City Chapters, VICA encourages improvement of vocational and leadership skills, scholarship, citizenship and community service. Moreover, through professional development activities, members learn how to work with others, hold office and direct the affairs of the group and how to compete honorably with colleagues on the local, state, and international levels.

During my tenure in the House of Representatives, I have also personally witnessed the hard work and dedication of members, such as Ms. Janice Jones and Mr. Jerome Jeffrey, who have graciously represented the East New York High School of Transit Technology Chapter of VICA at numerous community events within the 10th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the many years of invaluable assistance this organization has provided youth and the community-at-large. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Week.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
FRANKIE M. FREEMAN

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and mentor, the Honorable Frankie Muse Freeman. On November 24, 1996, attorney Freeman celebrate her 80th birthday. As a tribute to this noted legal champion and legendary figure, I declared November 24, 1996 as "Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman Day" in the First Congressional District of Missouri. In further celebration of Mrs. Freeman's wonderful life, I commend her story to our colleagues.

Frankie Muse Freeman has been a practicing attorney for over 45 years and has held several trailblazing positions. These include Missouri attorney general, a commissioner of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission—to which she was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson—and inspector general of the Community Services Administration by President Jimmy Carter.

Over the years, Frankie Freeman has given exemplary leadership and dedicated services to numerous civic, cultural, and educational organizations and was one of the two United States representatives to the UN-ECA West African Housing Conference in Lome, Togo.

A graduate of Hampton University and Howard University School of Law, Mrs. Freeman is a member of the Mound City Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.

Frankie Muse Freeman served as the fourteenth national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service sorority with over 190,000 members in over 870 chapters internationally.

In 1992 she was elected trustee emeritus of the Howard University Board of Trustees following 16 years as a member of the board.

Mrs. Freeman has also been an active and devoted member of the Washington Tabernacle Baptist Church and serves as treasurer of the church's scholarship fund.

For 52 years, Mrs. Freeman was the devoted wife of Shelby Freeman who died in 1991. She is dedicated to her daughter, Shelby Patricia, son-in-law, Ellis Bullock, three grandsons, and three great grandsons. Her family is bonded together with strength and love.

Again, I congratulate Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman. I commend her for a long and illustrious career as an outstanding jurist of great character, leadership, and compassion. I further applaud her lifelong exemplary stand on justice and civil rights issues.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. JON T.
ANDRE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to pay tribute to Lt. Col. Jon T. Andre who, on January 31, 1997, retired from the U.S. Air Force after more than 24 years of

dedicated service. During his distinguished career, Colonel Andre has served his country, the U.S. Air Force, and the community of McGuire Air Force Base with distinction and honor.

Over the past 6½ years, Colonel Andre served at McGuire AFB in New Jersey. It has been during this period that I have gotten to personally know and appreciate Jon's professional integrity and always positive outlook. In 1993, Jon was assigned as McGuire's principal liaison officer during the emotional and often contentious base closure and realignment process. Jon excelled under an extremely delicate and difficult situation, deftly handling the demands placed on him by both Air Force Headquarters and the local community which sought to retain McGuire AFB. His earnest, forthright approach earned him praise by all who came in contact with Jon during this period.

A native of Ludlow, MA, Colonel Andre entered the Air Force following his graduation from Holy Cross College in 1972. Although initially trained as an air weapons controller, Jon sought early in his career to work with people and improve the personal and professional relationships within the Air Force. Throughout his career, Colonel Andre has been involved with human relations and equal opportunity programs, gaining ever more responsibility and recognition with each promotion.

By all accounts, Colonel Andre's involvement with personal development-personal relations programs was a perfect match. He repeatedly distinguished himself in this field, earning both individual as well as group honors. Specifically, Jon's accomplishments include having his office selected as the Tactical Air Command's Best Social Actions Programs for 2 consecutive years while assigned at Luke Air Force Base; selected as Instructor of the Year while serving as a weapons control instructor; and having his office recognized as the Best Major Command Social Actions Programs in the Air Force while assigned to Langley Air Force Base as the Chief of the Equal Opportunity and Treatment-Human Relations Education Branch.

Colonel Andre and his lovely wife, Patty, will begin a new career in Virginia where Jon will again use his communication and interpersonal skill as a human resources director for the historic Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. I know I speak for the entire McGuire community in wishing Jon and his family the very best as they leave the U.S. Air Force. I offer my personal thanks and the thanks of an appreciative nation as he begins a new chapter in his life.

HONORING SUPINDA
BUNYAVANICH

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Supinda Bunyanich, of Port Washington, NY, for being selected as a member of USA Today's All-USA College Academic First Team.

Supinda, a senior at Harvard University, truly embodies the ideals of leadership, perseverance, and initiative. Last summer, Supinda

organized a conference in Korea to discuss the challenges of globalization in the 21st century. She brought 268 students together from 67 universities around the world. Professors, policy experts, corporate leaders, and the media also attended the conference to give their own unique perspective on the challenges that lie ahead. As a leader of Harvard University's Project for Asian and International Relations, Supinda invited speakers and corporate sponsors, recruited delegates and managed the logistics of the event. Additionally, she raised \$200,000 in donations to help financially challenged students attend the conference.

Such initiative and intellectual endeavor can be seen throughout Supinda's experience at Harvard. She helped establish a forum on children's health at the Harvard School of Government and created the curriculum for an after-school project for underprivileged youth. Supinda has also traveled to Chile to conduct biological research.

Supinda is one of 20 college students from around the country to be selected as a member of the All-USA College Academic First Team. Twelve hundred fifty-three students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia were nominated for this honor.

Supinda will graduate with a degree in environmental science and public policy and would eventually like to become a college professor. Supinda's experience demonstrates how one individual can achieve so many extraordinary accomplishments through innovation, creativity, and leadership. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Supinda Bunyanich, on her many accomplishments, and extending to her our best wishes for continued success.

A SALUTE TO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL VICTORS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some high school students from Central High School in Woodstock, VA, in my congressional district for their outstanding sports achievement as State champions in cross country and basketball. Both the Central High School boys' cross country team and Central High School girls' basketball team won State championship victories in 1996. To have two teams from the same school obtain the title of State champions during the same year is certainly a true accomplishment. I would like to acknowledge the following team members and coaches for the dedication and hard work that brought them to victory.

Members of the Central High School girls' basketball team are: Christy Burgess, Jessica Wellard, Kathy Gochenour, Stephanie Lane, Sarah Dinardo, Meghan Peer, Brandi Fleet, Sarah French, Lindsey Rutz, Jewel Lee Magdic, Tata Dooley, and their coach Roger Wilkins. Members of the boys' cross country team are: Tim Cline, Matt Dinardo, Tim Clugasch, Damon Harper, Kirk Kirkland, Bryce Long, Jason Long, Tony Scott, and their Coach Joseph Huddle.

On behalf of the citizens of the 10th District, I salute these teams and Central High School.

H.R. 505, THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, we have the opportunity to take another step closer to a goal we all share with President Clinton: renewing investment in our cities and communities. I am joined by 18 other Members today in introducing H.R. 505, the Community Empowerment Act.

The Community Empowerment Act expands on the successful empowerment zone initiative we began in 1993 which created 9 empowerment zone demonstration projects and 95 enterprise communities. The bill I am introducing today provides tax incentives for an additional 22 new empowerment zones and 80 enterprise communities. The bill also provides tax incentives for cleanup of up to 30,000 brownfield sites across the country.

Everyone has an interest in seeing these communities thrive economically and environmentally. These tax incentives will mean our investments can finally pay off for both the investor and the community.

The bill would establish a new category of tax-exempt financing for 20 additional empowerment zones in 15 urban and 5 rural areas. The other newly designated areas, the 80 enterprise communities, 50 urban and 30 rural, and the 2 additional empowerment zones, would enjoy essentially the same incentives as provided under current law. Located mainly in low-income areas, the zones, and smaller enterprise communities, would be designated for tax and other incentives to enhance economic development, job growth, improved education, housing, and other benefits. As in the nine existing empowerment zones, communities would have the power to design their own specific programs.

The bill would also provide \$2 billion in tax incentives specifically to address the important problem of brownfields, which are abandoned, polluted industrial sites. The tax incentives will spur the private sector to clean up these sites and put them back into productive use. The incentives would apply to all distressed communities, including current and future empowerment zones and enterprise communities, and are expected to result in \$10 billion in private cleanup investment over the next 7 years. Under current law, the costs of new buildings or permanent improvements that increase the value of any property are not deductible. The community Empowerment Act would make certain remediation costs deductible if they were incurred while restoring a qualified site.

Mr. Speaker, leveraging public sector resources to encourage private-sector community investment is a fiscally responsible and wise means of promoting community development and prosperity. I invite my colleagues to sign onto this bill and vote for it.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1997

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill designed to promote greater telecommunications service to native Americans, including Alaskan Natives.

There is great optimism in this Chamber about last year's Telecommunications Act, particularly the provisions on universal service. While I join my colleagues in that optimism, I am concerned that these policies will prove insufficient for native Americans.

For too long, native Americans have fallen through the cracks of our national telecommunications policy. My bill will ensure that the universal service mechanisms designed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will benefit carriers designated to serve Indian lands.

Among the recommendations in the 1995 Office of Technology Assessment report, "Telecommunications Technology and Native Americans" is a strengthened Federal/tribal government partnership in the telecommunications field to provide better services to persons in Indian country and to enable tribes to be direct providers of telecommunications services.

In conjunction with this report and President Clinton's Executive order to require all Federal agencies to adopt specific policies to ensure responsible representation of the interests of native Americans my bill will direct the FCC to:

Establish an Indian telecommunications policy that takes into account the unique government-to-government relationship between the tribes and the Federal Government, the trust obligations of the United States.

Promote opportunities for meaningful participation and comment in FCC proceedings.

Obtain and maintain a database of reliable statistics concerning the extent of subscribership to, and the affordability of, telecommunications and information services on Indian lands.

The legislation will promote the exercise of sovereign authority of tribal governments over the establishment of communications policies and regulations within their jurisdictions. Furthermore, the bill will promote native-American participation in the consumption and provision of telecommunications services.

To focus Federal infrastructure development policy, the legislation that I have introduced today requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration [NTIA] to encourage investment in, and the deployment of, telecommunications systems on Indian lands.

We currently operate without any policy towards these sovereign entities, many of which retain great physical and geographical barriers to proper infrastructure. This lack of direction creates greater polarization between the technological haves and have-nots.

Many rural tribes are caught in a jurisdictional "catch 22" due to the existing lack of policy at both the Federal and State level. While many States require telecommunications carriers to serve rural areas in America as part of a larger overall regulatory agreement, the States are not compelled to extend these services onto Indian lands. Consequently, many rural Indian reservations fail to receive adequate service.