

OH, who has retired as the city's administrator. Throughout her distinguished tenure, she was a model of a dedicated public servant.

Colleen began working for the city of Bowling Green in 1967 as a bookkeeper, monitoring maintenance costs of city vehicles. Working her way up through the municipal structure, she became the city's municipal administrator in 1989. As a testament to her talent and commitment to fiscal responsibility, the city's books held no operating debt upon her retirement.

In addition to leaving Bowling Green on sound financial grounds, Colleen may take pride in her retirement in knowing she played a key leadership role in the development and promotion of her community. As assistant municipal administrator and later as municipal administrator, she helped revitalize the downtown area and aggressively assisted in economic development. She was involved in recruiting commercial and industrial business and in negotiating an enterprise zone agreement between business, industry, and government. Ever mindful that a community is more than simply a collection of business enterprises, Colleen worked to ensure Bowling Green remained the warm and pleasant place to live and visit it has always been. Her efforts have grown trees, parks, and playgrounds which people have enjoyed and will for generations to come. She helped make Bowling Green a true slice of Middle America.

More than a municipal employee, Colleen expanded the boundaries of public servant by committing her time and talent to various volunteer groups and charities: the American Cancer Society, Muscular Dystrophy Association, and Arthritis Foundation to name a few. For her selfless efforts, Colleen was honored and recognized by many civic and community organizations. The recognition culminated in 1996, when she received an honorary alumnus degree from Bowling Green State University for a lifetime of achievement and civic-mindedness.

The English poet/philosopher John Donne wrote that "no man is an island, entire of itself" by which he meant that every person touches every other living being. Colleen Smith is an example of this sentiment. Although retiring from public service, I am certain she will carry on in the ideal of Donne's philosophy for many years to come. I know my colleagues join me in thanking Colleen Smith for 30 years of dedicated service, and wish her an enriching retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LADY EAGLES BASKETBALL TEAM OF WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate the girls basketball team of West Valley High School. On March 15, the Lady Eagles won the Washington State AA High School basketball championship, handily defeating the Prosser High School girls squad 61 to 44. The Lady Eagles won 18 of their 22 games in the regular season, defeating many tough teams.

Under the leadership of Coach Mark Kuipers and assistant coaches Steve Lawler, Shelli Totten, Robyn Schumacher, and Renee Nilles, the girls squad demonstrated athletic skill, teamwork, and persistence, qualities which helped them play good basketball and win the State championship.

Players for the State championship team are Abby Monasmith, Angela Kaltas, Sherry Shollenberger, Cindy Simpson, Gabby McClintock, Chantelle Frost, Dawn Salfer, Kiesha Sowers, Stacey Roberts, Danna Vermeers, Heather Huffman, and Alisha Pedey. Jill Nihoul, Heather Sweet, and Megan Lawk served as the team's managers.

Principal Cleve Penberthy, Athletic Director Wayne McKnight, and residents of the West Valley district should be proud of the Lady Eagles' success. I join them in saluting the players, managers, and coaches for their accomplishment.

I hope the Lady Eagles' success will encourage others to pursue their goals, recognizing that to succeed, players need to practice and work together as a team. While necessary to their triumph, athletic skill alone was not enough. I hope that my neighbors in eastern Washington—and Americans across the Nation—will learn from their success, that they will not let the odds discourage them, they will remain confident in their abilities and work together to reach their goals.

Skill, teamwork, and persistence allowed the Lady Eagles to triumph on the basketball court. And these qualities will enable students across the country to succeed, whether in an athletic arena or in any other endeavor they would like to pursue.

IN HONOR OF NORMAN M. COLE, JR.

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of Mr. Norman M. Cole, Jr., whose contributions to the northern Virginia area, are beyond measure. Norman died suddenly in a skiing accident on February 2, 1997, and it is hard for me, and the entire Fairfax community to believe that such a vibrant and dynamic citizen is gone.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform others of what an outstanding activist and advisor Norman was. As past chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I had the opportunity to work with Norman and I viewed him as one of the fathers of modern Fairfax. He served on my commission to study the county's budget in 1992 and his insight helped the county to achieve a balance without a tax increase. He was a visionary who saw the big picture in the way government operates, and he was able to put together the coalitions to get things done. Norman was former chairman of Virginia's State Water Control Board and an activist who frequently spoke out in defense of measures to protect northern Virginia's water supply. While chairman, Norman initiated the State standards for treating sewage before it was released into the Potomac River.

No one had more to do with protecting the Potomac River and shaping the region's water supply. Many of Norman's other brilliant ideas

have been adopted by the Virginia General Assembly. Norman also served as a member of the Occoquan Sewage Authority and most recently was involved in assessing Dominion's semiconductor's plans to build a \$1.7 billion computer chip plant in northern Virginia. He also was a fighter for such causes as conserving energy and decreasing government spending.

Norman will be missed by all the residents of northern Virginia that were among the lucky to know him, and my deepest condolences goes to his wife, Janet, and his family. Norman will be a friend I will never forget, and he will be missed by the community he served. A recent editorial in the Washington Post clearly defines Mr. Cole's contributions to the region.

IN HONOR OF NORMAN M. COLE, JR.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 9, 1997]

The Potomac River is far cleaner today than it was 30 years ago, and the credit for this transformation goes to one man whose expertise, persistence and political skills forced the issue on officialdom until he got results. Norman Cole Jr., who died in a skiing accident last weekend at the age of 63, was the undisputed champion of efforts to achieve what presidents and other elected leaders all talked about but never seemed ready to do: rid the Potomac of serious pollution. Poll anyone who ever got involved in the revival of the river and they point to Mr. Cole, the caring man who knew more than anyone else about water quality.

Mr. Cole served in a variety of state and local assignments pertinent to the longtime health of the region. He did stints as technical and policy adviser to Govs. John Dalton and Linwood Holton on energy and water pollution abatement. The government of Fairfax County leaned on Mr. Cole constantly for guidance, and civic groups sought him out for help, which he generously provided. Mr. Cole also was principal author of the 1971 Occoquan Watershed Policy, which prompted creation of a sewage authority there as well as of a world-class treatment plant.

Mr. Cole's expertise extended to global issues. He was a nuclear engineer who was a leader in the inspection and rectification of problems involving the reactor after the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania. He served on the Ukrainian international jury reviewing proposals to stabilize Chernobyl Unit No. 4 after the disaster there. Mr. Cole assisted the Russian government in defueling its nuclear-powered submarines.

Mr. Cole was the man who was always testing the waters—literally as well as in his elaborate charts brightened by his famous multicolored underliners. When the Potomac started passing his tests, he would organize group swims. When the attention spans of government officials got short, he would nag and educate them until they at least listened some more. He did what he did out of a deep concern for the safety and pleasure of his own children and out of a love of the outdoor life and a special affection for the Potomac. His legacy is a unique treasure.

IN MEMORY OF A GREAT POLKA BAND LEADER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Joe Toriskie, a Garfield Heights

resident who played his special brand of Cleveland-style polka music to countless fans of his band, "The Casuals."

Born in Cleveland, Mr. Toriskie started his first band while a student at South High School. He spread the joyous message of polka for the rest of his life. Over the past 30 years, Mr. Toriskie led his band, the Casuals, to the peaks of the polka music profession. He was nominated as Musician of the Year by the Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame last year. The Casuals were also nominated as Band of the Year in 1995 and 1996.

Mr. Toriskie had a distinctive style. He liked to mingle with his audience during breaks. He exuded the good, happy, honest life. His friends knew him as a genuine person and a truly nice man.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores, daughters, Christine Mackerty and Nancy Adams; and grandchildren, Michael and Katie Mackerty.

He will be deeply missed.

IRS COMMISSIONER LEGISLATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to ensure that the job of Internal Revenue Service Commissioner is filled by a person well qualified for this important, sensitive position who is insulated from political vagaries and undue influence.

Are certain nonprofit groups the targets of IRS audits? Is the IRS motivated by politics in determining which individuals or groups are audited? Shortly after the White House Travel Office employees were fired in 1993, IRS auditors began auditing UltraAir, a charter air company which had done business with the Travel Office and which was the subject of unfounded rumors about securing Travel Office work using kickbacks. Two years later, and after untold costs to the Government and the airline, UltraAir was cleared of any wrongdoing. Was this audit one of political retribution or an attempt to justify Travel Office firings?

Are IRS functions governed by objective interpretation and application of the tax code or are they directed by other interests? Almost daily, news reports are filled with allegations that the IRS is actually being run by politicians rather than career professionals, mindful of the fact that a well-placed, well-timed audit could have significant political rewards.

Far too many believe the IRS is an agency manipulated by powerful people with political motives. Far too many believe that the IRS is used as a political tool of the presidency—perhaps used to distract the opposition—perhaps an audit will work to divert the opposition's time, attention, and resources toward tax compliance matters rather than in pursuing their ideological goals. Can we call in the IRS and neutralize the opposition?

Ask your constituents what they fear most from the Federal Government and nearly all will say that one of their greatest fears is learning that they are being audited by the IRS. Not only does the IRS audit raise great concern, but for many who find themselves the focus of an audit, those concerns are

compounded by the strongly held view that the agency may be politically motivated.

When the IRS Commissioner serves at the pleasure of the President, the perception is that the Commissioner may be swayed to operate the IRS in a manner that pleases the White House and may even agree to pursue audits as directed or do other things to be assured continued employment. Is this perception reality? Stories abound of misuse or abuse of IRS power for political purposes—in this administration and in previous administrations throughout history.

This is wrong. The IRS must be above partisan politics. Taxpayers—individuals and organizations alike—must be assured that one of the most important agencies in the Federal Government is run in a fair, nonpartisan manner. Americans deserve to rest easy knowing that the IRS is working in an objective, even-handed way to assess and collect taxes owed to the Federal Government. Americans deserve this.

That is why I am today introducing legislation which bolsters the integrity of the Internal Revenue Service by ensuring that the IRS is managed by an independent Commissioner, judged by his or her peers to be well-qualified to run the agency. My bill does two important things. First, the legislation establishes a new objective selection process for the IRS commissioner. Second, the legislation establishes a set 6-year term for the Commissioner, and thereby provides an important degree of independence from the President.

Under the provisions of this legislation, 150 days prior to the expiration of the Commissioner's term, or when a vacancy occurs, a special selection commission is established to consider potential candidates for commissioner. This commission will be comprised of peers qualified to assess the qualifications of potential candidates.

Specifically, the commission will consist of five individuals having professional contacts with the IRS, appointed by the following organizations: First, a representative from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants who is a certified public accountant; second, a representative from the American Bar Association who is a member of the Tax Division; third, a scientist from the National Academy of Scientists; fourth, an engineer from the Institute for Electronic and Electrical Engineers; and fifth, an economist from the American Economics Association.

No later than 60 days after the commission is established, the commission submits to the President a slate of qualified candidates. The President then selects his nominee from that slate. Once approved by the Senate and sworn in, the new IRS commissioner then serves for a 6-year term.

This selection process is similar to the process used to select the comptroller of the General Accounting Office. In that instance, a special commission—comprised of members of the House and Senate—is established to consider potential candidates for the position and to present to the President a slate of qualified candidates for his consideration. This process has worked well for many years and has resulted in well-qualified persons serving as comptroller. I am convinced that the position of IRS Commissioner would benefit from a similar commission comprised of qualified individuals routinely doing business with the IRS. Let us follow the model provided and establish

a selection commission for the IRS Commissioner.

My legislation ensures that strong, qualified candidates are selected for IRS Commissioner and further ensures that the Commissioner is afforded necessary insulation and distance from attempts to make the IRS a tool for the party in power in the White House. We must give taxpayers renewed confidence in the IRS and in its ability to fulfill its mission in an unbiased, even-handed manner. My bill will do just that and I urge its support.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE FORWARD

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the Forward, the king of New York's ethnic newspapers that has given voice to this city's Jewish community since 1897.

For 100 years, Forverts has brought the news to New York's Jewish immigrant community in their native tongue, Yiddish. Considered by many as the exemplar of ethnic newspapers in a metropolis that supports more than 100 of these, the Forward has been hailed by no less than legendary New York newspaperman Pete Hamill as the model for all newspapers.

The story of the Forward begins with one of the landmark developments of this Nation's history, the great European immigration that began during the latter part of the 19th century. The forward, and thousands of journals like it, was published for the 2½ million Jews from Eastern Europe who poured through great immigrant ports like Ellis Island between 1881 and 1925. Its first great editor was Abraham Cahan, a literary genius and acclaimed author who created a daily that was best described as a kind of running Talmudic text for the secular cultural life of the Yiddish-speaking masses. Its mix of sensationalism and seriousness was supplemented by the fictions, essays and poetry of the great names of Yiddish literature. Though he won a Nobel Prize for literature in 1978, Isaac Bashevis Singer first published his fictional work in the Forward.

In the 1920's when the Forward wielded more influence than many of New York's English-language newspapers, this Yiddish daily boasted a circulation of more than a quarter million. In 1947, the paper's 50th anniversary party was so large it was staged in Madison Square Garden. It has even been said that the Forward's influence was so great, that it helped elect Meyer London to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1914.

May 25, 1990, was a historic day in the life of the Forward. After 93 years of publishing solely in Yiddish, the Forward produced its first English-language edition. Not an English translation, but a new entity that shares only a Manhattan office and the rich heritage of the original Forward. Led by president and editor Seth Lipsky, formerly an editor of the Wall Street Journal, the English-language edition has quickly staked its claim as the leading secular newspaper covering the Jewish-American community. Today, the Forward also publishes a Russian-language edition.