

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have met these young adults and am confident of their abilities to lead America in the future. This select group of young leaders has the integrity and values needed to ensure a virtuous Colorado and United States in the next century.

A VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN—
RAYMOND R. “ANDY” GUEST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues a recent editorial from The Winchester Star which so eloquently speaks about a true “citizen-legislator,” Raymond R. “Andy” Guest of Front Royal, who has announced his retirement as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly, where he served for nearly three decades.

I am proud to call Andy Guest my constituent and friend, and am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him in public service to so many of the constituents we share from the Shenandoah Valley. On behalf of those people of the Valley, I wish Andy and His wife, Mary Scott, all the best wherever his path now as “citizen” leads.

[From The Winchester Star, March 2, 1999]

VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN—GUEST PERSONIFIED
LEGISLATIVE TRADITION

It comes as no small surprise that when the time came for Raymond R. “Andy” Guest Jr. to announce his retirement from the General Assembly he was “overwhelmed” by “the history, the tradition” that surrounds anyone in Virginia’s State Capitol. But then, Andy Guest is not “any-one”; 28 years a man of the House, he was emblematic of that tradition the Old Dominion so admires in her lawmakers, that of “citizen-legislator.”

“To continue that tradition was a great honor.” Mr. Guest said Sunday, roughly 24 hours after announcing his intention to leave the House, and the people, he served for nearly three decades.

However, the tradition to which he stood heir goes deeper than ties to Virginia. In a real sense, he was to the manner born; his father, Raymond Sr., also served in the General Assembly and was U.S. ambassador to Ireland. Thus, as his wife, Mary Scott, succinctly said. “He was born to be a public servant.”

And, as a public servant, he will be dearly missed, by his peers no less than his constituents. Among the men and women with whom he engaged in the legislative hurly-burly he will be remembered as the gentleman he is.

“Sometimes we use the word . . . a little too freely,” said House Speaker Thomas W. Moss, D-Norfolk, with whom Guest often tangled. “but I’ve never known him to be anything but a gentleman.”

Likewise, said state Sen. H. Russell Potts Jr., R-Winchester: “We have lost a good man. His integrity and character exude the class that typifies a Virginia gentleman. He leaves a void that will never be replaced.”

That “void” is considerable, in that Mr. Guest’s voice was one of clear common sense and consistent conservatism, particularly of the fiscal variety. In his last session, he raised words of concern about the manner in which the state treats its surplus revenue (see editorial above). He is worried, as are we, that these dollars will be used to “grow

the government,” rather than as a tool to fund needed capital expenditures.

Such a concern was true to form. As a minority member of the legislature for most all his 28 years in the House—he was minority leader for six of them—Mr. Guest often found himself “chipping away” at the system in hopes that it would run better. Frequently, this took the form of legislation that bore witness to the needs of his constituents in the northern Valley. He relished in his efforts to make the bureaucracy respond to these needs and to “see things get done.”

To be sure, Mr. Guest also will be remembered for his courage in combating lymphatic cancer while maintaining a watchful eye on the General Assembly’s proceedings from his Richmond hospital bed. Thankfully, he says his decision to leave the House is not health-related, but simply predicated by a desire to attend to family and business interests and to, as they say, “smell the roses” a bit, perhaps while dove hunting and fly fishing, two particular loves.

His wife, Mary Scott, says that having Andy at home on more or less a regular basis will translate into more opportunities to enjoy the company of friends, sans the demands that politics brings.

“I’ll be able to say . . . ‘Let’s have dinner on Friday or Saturday night and we won’t have to talk politics.’” Mrs. Guest said.

Without a doubt, she knows her man far better than we, but we suspect that politics will never stray too far from the mind of Andy Guest. Citizen-legislators may retire, but when “tradition” is born in the blood, the passion seldom expires. Nor does the legacy, which, in this case, is considerable.

District government. Last year, I spent ten hours on the House floor defending the District’s appropriation from anti-democratic attachments, more of them seeking to impose sexual orientation discrimination than any other type of attachment that was proposed and passed. We must keep these and other anti-gay provisions off this year’s appropriation. The right to adopt children or to qualify for health insurance has everything to do with kids in need of homes or residents in need of health care, and nothing to do with the sexual orientation of our residents. The bigoted mischief done by Congress to the District in the name of homophobia has known no bounds. The city is now in court seeking to overturn the congressional attachment that prevents the release of the November ballot results determining whether District residents who are ill can use medically prescribed marijuana for medicinal purposes. Another amendment brimming with discrimination last year all but destroyed the District’s successful needle exchange program, leaving this vital, life-saving program to a totally private group with little funding.

I very much appreciate the efforts of our dedicated and energetic LGBT community to educate Members concerning the injury done to individuals and the insult to self-government rendered by congressional anti-gay attachments. With Equality Begins at Home rallied to fight back, we will yet make the Congress understand that it must back off—back off bigotry against District residents whose sexual orientation differs from the majority, and back off the annual assault on the legislative prerogatives of the City Council.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this bigotry is not limited to anti-democratic legislation aimed at the LGBT community of the District. In the past year, this nation has been outraged at the inexplicable cruelty of the murders of two gay men in Alabama and Wyoming. These hate-inspired murders underscore the need to pass the Hate-Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) immediately. Another session of Congress must not go by without addressing both the crimes and the employment discrimination that emanate from sexual orientation. No other response is acceptable.

COMMEMORATING TEJANO MUSIC:
19TH ANNUAL TEJANO MUSIC
AWARDS CELEBRATION

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today that will recognize one of the unique sounds sweeping across the Nation today—Tejano music. All across America the sounds of tejano have become the music of choice. From deep in the heart of south Texas to the Great Plains, from the east coast to the west coast, the pulsating rhythms of a loud drumbeat, a bajo-sexo guitar and an ubiquitous accordian are taking over the Nation to the beat of Tejano.

During the last several years Tejano artists have captured a large percentage of the Latin music market and continue to rise in popularity. From the legendary Selena to the incomparable Little Joe the sweet sounds of

these events, with an emphasis on local needs, are taking place throughout the United States, but no jurisdiction has experienced more bigotry associated with sexual orientation than the nation’s capital. This prejudice, I am happy to say, does not come from the people of the District of Columbia, or their locally elected representatives, who have enacted the most progressive and far-reaching protections in the country. Residents of every background in the District feel particular anger when, in violation of all of the principles of self-government, Congress injects itself to enact measures at odds with principles of equality and anti-discrimination that the residents of this city hold especially dear.

Each year, under congressional attack, I am forced to defend the District’s domestic partnership law, a very modest provision designed to afford relatives or partners who live in the same household the opportunity to qualify for health benefits at no additional expense to the

Tejano continue to climb the American music charts with one hit after another. The sound of Tejano is the sound of a people. For those of us in south Texas, Tejano is the tradition and history of the people's thoughts, feelings and aspirations. Tejano is more than just the high energy mix of Rock 'n Roll, Country, Jazz and Rhythm & Blues, it is the music of our people that helps move us and express our emotions.

This week, the city of San Antonio—known as the Tejano capitol of the world—will be host to the 19th Annual Tejano Music Awards. The awards presentation will take place on Saturday, March 20, 1999, at the Alamodome in San Antonio and pay tribute to the best and brightest in the Tejano music industry.

A testament to the success of Tejano music and this annual awards show is the more than 40,000 people expected to attend the event this year. The Annual Tejano Music Awards, which began in 1980 with an enthusiastic 1,300 in attendance, is now one of our Nation's premier and fastest growing musical celebration.

Today, I offer up this resolution to commemorate the 19th Annual Tejano Music Awards and the spirit and history behind the music that will be celebrated and honored this week in San Antonio.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ARTHUR BOWERS, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Arthur Bowers, Jr. In his hometown of Florence, SC, he is very active in community affairs and has made many kind and generous contributions to the local community. He continually offers support to his neighbors, friends, and family.

Mr. Bowers was born on December 2, 1918, in Ellenton, SC. He is the son of the late Arthur Bowers, Sr., and Mrs. Eldora Bowers Phinizy. He has two siblings: the late Estella Gant and Isaiah Phinizy. On February 4, 1939, Mr. Bowers married the late Mary Cross Bowers. They had six children: Gladys, Dillie, Arthur, Jr., Loretta, Gloria, and Michael. In addition, Mr. Bowers has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In 1979, Mr. Bowers retired after working for the railroad for over 37 years. He has been a member of the New Ebenezer Baptist Church for over 50 years where he still serves as chairman of the Deacon Board. Mr. Bowers is a member of various community organizations. In particular, he is associated with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the United Transportation Union, Hiram Masonic Lodge #13, and the Seaboard Fellowship Club. He also serves as organizer and chairman of the Carver and Cannon Streets Crime Watch, and chairman of the Scouting Committee at New Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Mr. Bowers is a remarkable citizen and a wonderful asset to the State of South Carolina. He follows a motto that provides insight into his good character, "If I can help somebody as I travel along life's highway, then my living shall not be in vain."

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. JOSEPH W. WARFIELD AND THE TEXAS STATE PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Capt. Joe Warfield on his retirement as president of the Texas State Pilots' Association. The Texas State Pilots' Association is the professional organization that represents our State-licensed maritime pilots. These professional mariners navigate ocean-going ships safely to and from the many important commercial ports in Texas.

I am proud that our State's largest port, the Port of Houston, is in my district. The Port of Houston is connected to the Gulf of Mexico by the 53-mile Houston Ship Channel. The Port of Houston is the busiest U.S. port in foreign tonnage, second in domestic tonnage and the world's eighth busiest U.S. port overall. More than 6,435 vessels navigate the Houston Ship Channel annually. It is largely because of the skill and vigilance of professional state pilots such as Captain Warfield, that our vital waterborne commerce moves safely and efficiently through our state waterways.

Captain Warfield, an active Houston Pilot, served as president of the Texas State Pilots' Association from 1994 to 1998. He had been vice president of the association the previous 4 years. Captain Warfield is a graduate of Texas A&M University and has over 20 years of experience with the Houston Pilots. He has held numerous leadership positions within his pilotage association, including three years as Presiding Officer. On the national level, Captain Warfield is active in the American Pilots' Association. He was an APA Trustee for the State of Texas from 1994 to 1998 and served as a member of the APA's Navigation and Technology Committee for several years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the distinguished service to the Port of Houston and the State of Texas of Captain Joseph Warfield for his leadership and professional commitment to the safe dispatch of commerce on our waterways. We will miss his leadership, but we wish him well in his retirement.

INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of news stories recently about attacks on Christians in India. These attacks are deplorable and should be condemned. But even as we condemn them, we ought not to lose sight of the fact that the government of India has acted swiftly—in word and in deed—to also condemn the attacks and to take strong action against those who appear to be the perpetrators.

To date, there have been more than 200 people arrested in the two states, Gujarat and Orissa, where the violence has occurred. Both the two state governments and the central government have deployed extra manpower,

particularly police and investigation support teams, into the regions. In Gujarat, where the attacks have ruined property, the state government has already authorized relief and compensation payments for damaged property.

Not only has the government of India acted against the alleged perpetrators, it has condemned them, publicly and repeatedly, in no uncertain terms. Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Narayanan, India's head of government and head of state respectively, have spoken out against these crimes and those who would commit them. The Prime Minister even embarked on a one-day fast seeking a renewal of communal harmony, and did so on the January 30 anniversary date of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, India's revered leader, thereby trying his government's policies to Gandhi's ideals of non-violence and cultural diversity.

It is right for the Prime Minister to link his fast and the ideals of Gandhi. India is a diverse nation. Although it is predominantly a Hindu nation, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains freely practice their religions and have for centuries. It is important to note that these attacks, as heinous as they are, have only occurred in two states, which is home to only a small portion of India's Christian community. The vast majority of Christians live in parts of India that have not seen any signs of violence.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by noting that these attacks, terrible as they are, remind us that India itself remains a secular democracy, committed to the principles of individual tolerance and religious diversity. Its government has publicly demonstrated that commitment in recent weeks. It is to be commended for it.

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF ROBERT H. HODGSON, JR.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a friend, Robert H. Hodgson, Jr., whose mortal remains will be laid to rest in the columbarium of his home parish, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, on K Street in the District of Columbia, this Saturday.

Rob was a native Washingtonian who was educated at the Campus School of Catholic University and Gonzaga College High School. Rob also earned a BA at Rice University. He died in his sleep on February 18.

Rob was passionately political and politically compassionate. He thrived in the turbulent seas of D.C., Anglican, and Gay and Lesbian politics. He worked with numerous District officials, including Council Chairwoman Linda Cropp, Councilman Harold Brazil, and Councilman James Graham; he served as treasurer of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, was a vocal board member of Episcopal Caring Response to AIDS, and an active volunteer in his parish's AIDS and homeless ministries.

Those who knew Rob will remember his fondness for gossip. Rob always had the "inside scoop," not only on the D.C. Council and the D.C. Democratic State Committee, but on numerous vestries within the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Rob often used his skills as a raconteur to enliven a dull reception with the latest "dish."