

Phelps said, "Whether it is true-form country, contemporary, rock, children's music, classical, rhythm and blues or even Southern Gospel, he's the very best at bringing the best in music of any class."

When the new \$37 million Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum opened May 17, 2001, Ron was honored to be the first recording pianist/arranger to be included in the museum's permanent tribute to studio musicians. One of his famous keyboards and some of his hit arrangements are on display there. He is . . . "One of the major creative forces behind an amazing list of hit records and millions of record sales."

**BURNHAM FILE COMPANY 100TH
ANNIVERSARY**

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Burnham Fire Company for their 100th Anniversary and to thank them for their service and dedication to their community.

The Burnham Fire Company was started in September 1902 due to an overwhelming need for fire protection in their community. Until this time, the community relied on nearby cities whose fire departments could not respond as rapidly as needed due to the distance they had to travel. The company in Burnham was assembled of volunteers, a hand pulled hose cart, and a motto that described with incredible foresight what personal sacrifices must be made to be fire fighters. That motto is "Semper Puratus," which means "Always Ready."

Since the tragedy that befell this nation on September 11th, America has rediscovered her many heroes. Heroes come from all walks of life and display every day how they, like the Burnham Fire Company, follow the motto "Semper Puratus." They are the men and women that are always ready to put themselves at risk for the greater good of others. Volunteers who are always ready to unselfishly give of their time to serve their communities. Individuals who are always ready to contribute to the success of the team rather than striving for personal glory.

Burnham Fire Company still largely consists of a volunteer work force. These men and women are well trained and equipped, providing exceptional service to a community that is proud of the job they have been doing for the past 100 years. I would like to again congratulate them on their 100th Anniversary and thank them for all their hard work and service.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN HIRSHMANN

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Susan Hirshmann as she gets ready to leave her post as the chief of staff to House Majority Whip TOM DELAY. Susan has proven

to be invaluable and a trusted employee, friend and ally.

Susan Hirshmann is a remarkable individual who has become one the most important and influential women on Capitol Hill. She is highly respected by all who know her; and her comprehensive political grasp and policy expertise have set her apart as one of the greatest strategists in Washington. Susan has been an indispensable asset to Majority Whip's Office and the entire Whip organization.

For five years, she has been an advisor and top staffer, as well as a trustworthy ally to those who have worked with her.

Her intelligence and skill are complemented by a great sense of humor, which has made her contribution to this institution all the more praiseworthy.

We will all miss Susan, but we will always remember her hard work and steadfast devotion to this institution and her country.

JACK H. BACKMAN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, Massachusetts suffered a great loss. Indeed, when Jack Backman died, the world lost a man who was as fiercely dedicated to the cause of social justice as anyone of whom I have ever known.

My association with Jack Backman began in January 1973, when I became a freshman Member of the Massachusetts Joint Legislative Committee on Social Welfare, of which he was the Senate chair. I was proud to work under his leadership in those years for policies that would preserve some minimally decent life for the least fortunate among us. I have never worked with an elected official more willing to follow where his conscience led him with no regard whatsoever for electoral consequences than Jack Backman. And to my pleasant surprise and often to the chagrin of others, it turned out that when voters were presented with an example of someone prepared to do exactly that, they responded in a favorable way. Jack Backman genuinely brought out the best in democracy.

Mr. Speaker, in the Boston Globe for Tuesday, July 23, Renée Loth, Chief Editorial Writer, drew on her years as a reporter to give people a fair portrayal of this extraordinary man. I very much appreciate her doing this, in such a personal and compelling way, and because I think this model of how we Representatives should do our jobs ought to be widely shared, I ask that Ms. Loth's eloquent and accurate tribute to Jack Backman be printed here.

[From the Boston Globe, July 23, 2002]

JACK H. BACKMAN

(By Renée Loth)

I LAST SAW Jack Backman at a forum on women's issues at the University of Massachusetts in Boston in May. I told him the state could use him back in the Senate, where he had served for 16 years, and I meant it. Jack H. Backman, who died Friday at age 80, represented not just his constituents in liberal Newton and Brookline but an entire population of otherwise disenfranchised citizens: prisoners, mental patients, street people, drug addicts.

Concern for the less fortunate has become so marginalized in state politics that social spending is usually connected to a "sympathetic" interest group, such as children, or politically sophisticated groups such as the elderly or women. But Backman, whether in flush times or lean, represented causes for which there was no obvious political reward. With characteristic clarity, he once said he found it "morally abhorrent" that the dispossessed had no voice in government. So he gave them one.

During Backman's tenure in the House and Senate (1965 to 1987), Massachusetts was at the national forefront of social reform, much of it tied to his efforts. His legislation created the first Office for Children, the first lead paint removal act, and a guaranteed annual income for the blind and the disabled. He helped fund and implement the groundbreaking consent decrees that U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro ordered to improve conditions at state facilities for the retarded. He led regular tours for freshman legislators of the state's maximum security prison in Walpole.

He pushed to pay welfare mothers a living wage, to divest state funds involved in the apartheid regime in South Africa, to deinstitutionalize juvenile justice, to give prisoners rights to education and training. He worked with a calm persistence some found maddening, using the Committee on Human Services (then called the Social Welfare Committee), which he chaired, as a pulpit for hearings on society's ills. He annually filed one bill—to appropriate \$100 million in housing construction funds—for at least 11 years, mostly to illustrate the housing woes of the poor and the elderly.

Philip Johnston served for eight years with Backman on the Human Services Committee. "He always took the view that it was his role and our committee's role to push the envelope on social justice," Johnston said. "He felt that someone needed to articulate what was right and let others decide what was feasible."

In 2002, elected officials are reviving the chain gang and charging prisoners a day rate for room and board. The Legislature just passed a budget that eliminates health care coverage for 50,000 low-income and disabled adults. We really do need Jack Backman—dreamer, believer, humanist, optimist—back at the State House. He was the rarest of politicians: someone whose heart was bigger than his ambition.

HONORING MR. JOHN SEIGENTHALER OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE FOR A LIFETIME OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my good friend John Seigenthaler, a great American and an outstanding Tennessean, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Throughout his career, Seigenthaler has been a consistent leader on free speech and civil rights issues and a staunch defender of patriotism and democracy. Because of his reputation for offering sound advice, he has served as an advisor to key national leaders including President John F. Kennedy, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and numerous

statesmen and women including members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

In 1949, Seigenthaler began his career as a cub reporter at *The Tennessean* in Nashville, Tennessee. Eventually, he rose through the ranks to become editor, publisher, and CEO of the newspaper where he worked for some 43 years. An award-winning journalist, he currently serves as the chairman emeritus of *The Tennessean* and at one time served as president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Seigenthaler was named editorial director of *USA Today* in 1982, and served in that capacity for nearly 10 years. In 1991, he founded the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University in order to inspire and create a national dialogue concerning First Amendment principles. Today, as an independent affiliate of the Freedom Forum, the First Amendment Center is world-renowned for its innovative discussions and initiatives with locations in both Arlington, Virginia, and Nashville, Tennessee.

According to the First Amendment Center, it "works to preserve and protect First Amendment freedoms through information and education." Further, the center "serves as a forum for the study and exploration of free-expression issues, including freedom of speech, of the press and of religion, the right to assemble and petition the government."

Seigenthaler played an integral role in civil rights history by serving as chief negotiator with the Governor of Alabama during the Freedom Rides of the 1960s, where he was attacked by a group of Klansmen for his efforts. Briefly during this era, he worked for the Justice Department under Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

He currently serves on the boards of trustees of The Freedom Forum and the First Amendment Center and hosts a "A Word On Words," a weekly book review program which airs on public television stations throughout the nation.

Additionally, he serves on advisory boards of schools of journalism and communications at American University, the University of Tennessee and the University of Maryland, and a \$3 million endowment has been made to Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) for a First Amendment Chair.

His volunteer work also includes service on the 18-member National Commission on Federal Election Reform, and as a participant in the Constitution Project Initiative on Liberty and Security, which came about as a result of the Sept. 11th tragedies in New York and Washington.

Seigenthaler remains active on the national scene as well as in Tennessee, where he often works tirelessly, behind the scenes, on projects of benevolence for the betterment of the community.

Married to the former Delores Watson, the couple has one child, John Seigenthaler, of New York City, a weekend anchor for MSNBC networks.

Seigenthaler is to be honored for his leadership, courage, and compassion at this milestone in his life. His life's work has impacted the masses and will continue to influence generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was absent for votes on July 18, 2002. Had I been present, I would have opposed H. Res. 489, supported the amendment offered by Mr. Moran (VA), and supported final passage of H.R. 5121.

I would have also opposed the previous question to H. Res. 488 and opposed H. Res. 488.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING OVARIAN CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 385, a resolution supporting research on tests used to screen for ovarian cancer.

Currently, among women in the United States, cancer of the ovary ranks fifth in the number of women affected.

Approximately half of the women with ovarian cancer die within five years. Therefore, the need to detect and treat ovarian cancer in its earliest stages is critical.

This resolution would express support for the National Institutes of Health to conduct or support research on the effectiveness of screening technologies to detect ovarian cancer. With improved technologies we will be able to better detect ovarian cancer in its initial stages.

H. Con. Res. 385 is about improving the quality of life of our loved ones—mothers, daughters, sisters, wives and friends. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF DEVOTED FAMILY MAN, PAUL VOINOVICH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Paul Voinovich, devoted husband, father and grandfather, successful businessman, and trusted friend to many.

Following his graduation from Ohio University, Mr. Voinovich, followed in his father's footsteps by taking over the family architectural business, once known as the Voinovich Companies.

Mr. Voinovich was an intuitive and savvy businessman, and was highly adept at the art of the deal. He was a loyal colleague and business mentor to many, and a treasured friend as well. He warmly embraced life, and possessed a generous spirit. Mr. Voinovich was known to frequently help others in need,

and did so in a quiet way away from the spotlight.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Paul Voinovich will be remembered as a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and trusted friend to many. Although he will be deeply missed, his devotion to family, kind nature, generous spirit, and great zest for life will live on through all who knew him well.

CHILD STATUS PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1209—The Child Protection Act of 2002. Too many children of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents are penalized under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Specifically, children of legal permanent residents whose visa petitions are reclassified when their parents become naturalized citizens face prolonged delays due to their reclassification. Enacting H.R. 1209 makes sure that these children do not face such additional delays. It also ensures that the length of time it takes for INS to process petitions does not adversely affect children who are being petitioned from overseas to join their parents.

Under current law, when immigration visa petitions for children of permanent residents are moved from the second preference categories to first preference categories due to their parent's naturalization, they are faced with increased backlog for the new category, resulting in additional years of delay.

Many of my constituents in the second district of Hawaii face these tremendous obstacles in being reunited with their family. In one instance, the son of a legal permanent resident had waited 7 years to have his petition processed by INS under the second preference category. However, when his father became a U.S. citizen, he was reclassified to the FI preference category and reassigned a new priority date. Under the new date, it could take an additional decade for his petition to be processed! I have another case in which the children of a U.S. citizen mother have been waiting for over 13 years to be reunited with their parents because they were reclassified when their mother became a U.S. citizen. Ironically, if their mother had not become a citizen, they would already be in the U.S. with their mother!

Last year, I introduced H.R. 133 which amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to ensure that immigrants do not have to wait longer for an immigrant visa as a result of reclassification of their petition. I am encouraged to see that the version of H.R. 1209 on the floor today includes the same protection to assure that when the alien children are reclassified due to their parents' naturalization, they retain the same priority date assigned to them under the original visa category.

I also want to voice my strong support for provisions of H.R. 1209 that erase current "age-out" provisions in the law penalizing immigrant children of U.S. citizens. Under current law, when children of U.S. citizens turn 21 years of age, they "age-out" of their immediate relative status to the status of family-first