

and services and that these acts let him "own a Congressman" was refuted and impeached by five defense witnesses.

First, the majority of the work performed at the Traficant farm was done by Mr. Greg Tyson, who was scheduled as the government's witness to testify under immunity, but was never called by them. Subsequently, I called him to the stand.

Under oath, Mr. Tyson testified that not only was he accused and threatened with an indictment by the government for performing services at the farm as a favor to me, he also testified that he was PAID for his services.

Mr. Tyson was a partner with Anthony Bucci and Joe Sattarelle in a concrete company and I did arrange for the first ever minority loan to be made to Mr. Tyson to finance this investment; Mr. Tyson being a black man and not a 'front-man' for minority access to contracts.

Mr. Sattarelle, who was a government witness, testified that Anthony Bucci was such a liar that if Anthony Bucci said his name was Anthony Bucci, he (Sattarelle) would not believe it and that Anthony (Bucci) would lie about anything to avoid problems.

Mr. Sattarelle further testified that "Yes, Jim Traficant helped [their] company, he helped everybody."

Even an employee from ODOT testified that I did help the Bucci's as I helped any and all local companies. During this testimony the ODOT official stated that I received more federal money for my district than any other congressional district in the state of Ohio.

The truth is that the work Anthony Bucci offered to do at the farm ended up creating significant damage to the property, including causing the main bank barn to almost collapse, and costing my father, James A. Traficant, Sr. a tremendous amount of money to make repairs.

With regard to Bucci's alleged work at the farm, Sandy Ferrante testified that the main bearing stone wall of the barn had caved in and the barn was near collapse and that Anthony Bucci feared a lawsuit over this incident.

Another witness and contractor, Harry Manganaro, testified that he "helped Jim Traficant jack up the corner of the barn because the barn was literally going to collapse" because of the destruction to the property by Anthony Bucci.

Perhaps the most damaging testimony in this count came from Susan Bucci, Anthony's sister-in-law and widow of Anthony's brother, Dan.

Dan and Susan owned a farm across the street from the Traficant farm. Susan Bucci testified that I didn't like Anthony and never did and that my friend in the Bucci family was Dan. She further testified that Dan and I would go riding cycles together and shared bedding and equipment for livestock on a neighborly basis and that "Jim Traficant performed farm services at no cost to our family that far exceeded any of the so-called work that the Bucci brothers offered to do. And, that if anyone was owed money for materials and services, Jim Traficant was owed money by the (Bucci) brothers."

Additionally, Susan Bucci also stated under oath that Anthony (Bucci) was a "liar" and lied to her and took advantage of her and her family when her husband (Dan) died by "taking money" that was due to her and her children when the Bucci company was dissolved.

Susan Bucci's affidavit supports her assertions and reads in pertinent part:

AFFIDAVIT BY SUSAN BUCCI, FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 1, 2002

I hereby swear that the following statement is the truth:

1. Jim Traficant brush hogged 40 acres of land at our farm on Route 165 in Green Township, Mahoning County, Ohio, for seven years.

2. Jim Traficant mowed, raked and bailed hay for us on 25 acres for four years, with his own equipment and provided his own fuel.

3. Jim Traficant, at his expense, repaired our hay wagons regularly.

4. My husband, Dan (deceased) told me that when we stopped farming, to "give Jim the hay wagons."

5. Jim Traficant would not take any hay wagons without paying.

6. Jim Traficant gave me a check for one thousand dollars.

7. Jim Traficant said, "\$400 for the wagons and \$600 for anything I may owe."

8. Jim Traficant did not have to do that, but I believe he did that to help me, because I was having a difficult time financially.

9. The family had asked Jim Traficant to help get Tony Bucci into a halfway house.

10. Jim Traficant did that, and it was common knowledge that he would help anybody.

11. Jim Traficant would not accept anything, even though the brothers wanted to pay him.

12. On occasion, they got Jim some sawdust that my husband also used; my husband would take old hay and straw to bed our cows.

13. There was a time when Jim asked for help to borrow jackhammers to break up concrete in big, old bank barn.

In closing, I believe that Jim Traficant was owed money by the family.

Sworn before a notary on February 1, 2002.

Aside from the contracts my office assisted with, there were letters written on behalf of Anthony Bucci when he was a resident at a halfway house, Community Corrections Association (CCA). It is evident, through the testimony of Dominic Paolone, Jr. that these letters were not done as a favor to Anthony but as a standard procedure by my office when a family member contacts one of my district offices.

Mr. Paolone stated that he was a resident of CCA while Anthony Bucci was there and admitted that Mr. Bucci was upset because I wouldn't help him unless he followed office policy, which meant a family member must make the request on behalf of the individual incarcerated. Eventually Anthony's brother contacted me to submit a letter to CCA on Anthony's behalf. And, according to his testimony, Mr. Paolone was provided with the same assistance when his (Paolone's) father contacted my office.

Obviously, the jury was misled by Anthony Bucci's uncorroborated testimony and overlooked five truthful witnesses simply because the government submitted circumstantial evidence in the form of advocacy letters from my office to help the Bucci brothers and their respective companies. These letters were not in return for favors but because these companies employed up to 100 of my constituents and when these companies received local contracts, subcontracting and spin-off employment affected over 200 families in my district.

Did I help the Buccis—Yes. I helped hundreds of companies in my district, which had a 22 percent unemployment rate when I took office. Any member of Congress would have done the same thing.

As of Tuesday, June 4, 2002, Anthony Bucci, who would have faced 21 months in

prison for defrauding Uncle Sam, instead got a slap on the wrist in the form of 6 weeks home detention and two years of probation for his participation in my trial.

At this point, it's obvious what kind of deals the government is willing to make to get their #1 target—Jim Traficant, the only one to ever defeat the government, pro se, in a RICO trial.

For the record, the purported services occurred in the early 1990's, thus the imposition of a RICO charge was used by the government to extend the statute of limitations to accommodate for these ludicrous allegations.

The government provided no physical evidence, no wiretaps, no tapes, no hidden microphones and no fingerprints on more than 1,000 documents. How is it possible to reach a conclusion beyond a reasonable doubt with only circumstantial evidence and the testimony of felons? In a RICO case, no less.

Shove count one up their asphalt. Tomorrow, railroad stop two. . . . I mean count two. Sugar coated extortion, prosecutorial misconduct, subordination of perjury and other related governmental atrocities.

RON GNATKOWSKI: LAYING A
STRONG FOUNDATION FOR STUDENTS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Gnatkowski as he prepares to retire after 29 years as a public school teacher with Saginaw Township Community Schools. Ron deserves our highest praise and gratitude for his devotion to teaching and for consistently displaying the patience and understanding children need to blossom in and out of the classroom.

The sixth of seven children, Ron grew up in Saginaw, Michigan. After serving in the U.S. Army, Ron earned his bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University in 1972. He later earned a master's degree from Central Michigan University and another master's degree from Saginaw Valley State University. He has worked for Saginaw Township Community Schools since 1973.

As a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at Plainfield Elementary School for the past 19 years, Ron has been a top-notch role model for students, parents and colleagues. Historically, few men have accepted the challenges of teaching kindergarten and first-grade, but Ron never let such perceived barriers hold him back. As a result, his passion for teaching those early elementary years and his great success in doing so has inspired other male teachers to follow his path.

However, Ron's gender was not the only thing that set him apart. Throughout his tenure, Ron has always led by example. His work ethic and innovative ideas for teaching young boys and girls set a high standard at his school and throughout the district. In addition, Ron's unparalleled classroom skills and his commitment to children have made him a perfect mentor to younger colleagues and a valuable resource for others working to become better educators.

It also is noteworthy that Ron extended his expertise to improve schools beyond his professional responsibilities by serving on the

Carrollton Public Schools Board of Education since 1988. As a board member, he has been a strong advocate for educators, students and taxpayers. He also has been active with the Association for the Education of Young Chil-

dren, having served on the State Board of Directors of that organization for four years and on the local board for the past 14 years.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Ron Gnatkowski for all that he has done for

our schools in Saginaw County and throughout the state. I am confident that he will continue to lend his voice to improve education and I wish him a well-earned and enjoyable retirement.