

Army Engineer Battalions at Ft. Belvoir, VA; Fort Campbell, KY; and Fort Benning, GA. He was also with the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Campbell where he served as Group Engineer. In addition to these assignments to troop units, Colonel Davis has served as a Project Officer in the Pentagon and was a U.S. Exchange Officer to the Australian School of Military Engineering in Sydney. He also participated in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and in Operations Restore Hope and Continue Hope in Somalia. He also took part in the Hurricane Andrew Relief Operations in Florida.

Colonel Davis is the recipient of numerous commendations and decorations including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars. He has also earned the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges.

I especially want to thank Colonel Davis for his tremendous assistance with the Santa Ana Mainstem flood control project including the Seven Oaks Dam and San Timoteo elements. This effort, which is nearing completion, will result in flood protection for millions of citizens and billions of dollars of personal property in San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties in California.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the talents and remarkable skills of Colonel Davis as he prepares to take on the position of Chief of Staff of Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. I would also like to express our appreciation to his wife Barbara and their two children, Kimberly Anne and John. For his many years of service and dedication, I believe it is only appropriate that the House recognize Colonel Davis today.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4569) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to join my colleagues in strong support of maintaining Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act in the Foreign Operations Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1999. Section 907 was enacted in 1992 in response to Azerbaijan's illegal blockades of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh, and it remains a vital tool in United States policy towards the Caucasus.

Section 907 does not prohibit humanitarian aid, democracy building assistance, commercial assistance to United States businesses, or non-proliferation and disarmament assistance to Azerbaijan. It merely restricts direct government to government economic and military assistance to a regime known for their human rights abuses and corruption within the gov-

ernment. Azerbaijan has received over \$130 million in United States humanitarian aid since 1992, and will continue to do so; however, it is essential that we maintain Section 907 as a matter of United States foreign policy in the region.

The Government of Azerbaijan has restricted the transport of food, fuel, medicine, and other essential supplies to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. Even after the devastating earthquakes in 1994, Azerbaijan failed to take any measures aimed at easing these blockades. Section 907 has not even stopped United States oil companies from sharing in the wealth of Azerbaijan oil resources.

The decision to lift Section 907 is left in the hands of the Government of Azerbaijan. When they begin to take the necessary steps toward lifting their destructive blockades of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh, then and only then should the repeal of Section 907 be considered.

IN HONOR OF THE KING OF
SPORTS BROADCASTING

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as the baseball season comes to an end with all of its excitement of the homerun derby and the incredible performance of the New York Yankees, we in the San Francisco Bay Area have something else to celebrate and that is the remarkable career of sports announcer Bill King who has been the voice of the Oakland A's, The Oakland Raiders, and the Golden State Warriors.

Bill King has been calling games for forty years and providing so many days of enjoyment for the fans. His calls are a major part of the legends of American sports broadcasting.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege the past few years to spend time with Bill King in social settings. It is a wonderful evening to experience and enjoy his stories, his understanding of sports in America, as his desire to talk sports, art, history and politics.

Recently, the San Francisco Examiner ran an article celebrating Bill King's Career in the San Francisco Bay Area. I would like to share it with my colleagues. The article follows:

[From the San Francisco Examiner, Aug. 23, 1998]

BILL KING HAS BEEN THE DISTINCTIVE VOICE
OF BAY AREA SPORTS FOR 40 YEARS

(By Michelle Smith)

Bill King came to the Bay Area 40 years ago, without a beard or a legacy. Both have long since been firmly established.

King, however, does not do legacy, the same way he doesn't do shoes and socks, fancy cars or pants in the booth on a hot summer day.

He chooses to let his career speak for itself, and so it does.

In his years as the radio play-by-play voice of the A's, Warriors and Raiders, King has been the consummate messenger.

He has delivered some of the most memorable moments in local sports history with a style and conviction that earned him universal respect among his peers. And King's identity is so strong that even though he has

done most of his work in a non-visual medium, he is instantly recognizable behind his distinctive handlebar mustache and beard.

King's voice is not the traditional baritone of those born-to-be-broadcasters. His staccato delivery and ability to summon an evocative description for the big moments trigger memory, emotion and goose bumps.

Like in 1970 when he called a game-winning 51-yard field goal by George Blanda against Cleveland and declared Blanda had just been elected "King of the World." Or in 1977 when King called "The Ghost to the Post," Dave Casper's touchdown catch that gave the Raiders a playoff win in Baltimore. Or his 1978 call of the "Holy Roller" game-winning fumble recovery in San Diego, when he interpreted an official ordering coach John Madden to "get his big butt out of here."

King's calls of the Warriors' 1975 NBA championship sweep of the Washington Bullets and the A's 1989 World Series sweep of the Giants remain etched in the minds of listeners. As does his signature call "Holy Toledo" each time he sees something that needs extra emphasis.

"It is always nice when people have good responses to you—it's a lot better than the alternative," King said. "You don't want them saying, 'Get that idiot off the air.'"

Beyond that, King is reluctant to dig deeply into the reasons for his success and longevity. He has been working for a half-century, having called his first minor-league baseball game in Peoria, Ill., in 1948 at age 19.

"I am not a terribly introspective person," King said. "I don't do a lot of examining about why this or why that or why I feel this way or that way."

SMALL-TOWN SIMPLICITY

King is a man of simple ideals—the only evidence of his small-town Illinois upbringing—eclectic interests and a limitless passion for painting a visual picture.

"I love being on the air, I really do," King said. "I am a verbal person. I get a tactile feeling on my tongue. To not be able to verbalize is almost crippling to me. Some people would probably say 'I know, you never stop.'"

King shows no sign of stopping. He continues to work full-time at a time when popular Bay Area contemporaries like Lon Simmons and Hank Greenwald have cut back or retired altogether. King just signed a new three-year contract with the A's that keeps him as the team's radio voice through the 2001 season.

He keeps working simply because, he says, "There's no reason not to. I like what I'm doing. I get paid well for doing it and I can't think of anything that would be more desirable at this point."

He admits there no longer is time to do some of the things he loves, like sailing and traveling to places that don't have a baseball diamond within 50 miles. The commute to the ballpark from Sausalito sometimes takes twice as long as it used to, and the preparation—which has been a source of equal parts pride and obsession for King—is not nearly as straight-forward as it used to be, given the vast amounts of information now available.

King estimates he spends three hours a day preparing for a broadcast. "I can't imagine what it would be like to be on the computer. I won't do it."

UNIQUE PHONE SYSTEM

For many years in the 1960's, when King was doing both Warriors and Raiders games, he did not have a telephone in his home. A select few knew how to reach him on a downstairs neighbor's number.

"I had this boat hook and I'd lower it down, he'd put the phone on the hook and I'd pull it upstairs," King said. "To let us know if there was a call, he'd bang on the ceiling."

King still refuses to put an answering machine in his office and would never consider carrying a cellular phone. His scaled-down mentality applies to transportation as well. King owns two cars, a 1983 Firebird and a 1980 Mercury four-door, both of which perform the minimal function of getting him to and from the ballpark with no regard to style.

If King prefers to keep things simple, one would never know from his varied pursuits. He is a devout patron of the arts, a frequent attendee at the opera, ballet and symphony. He is a talented painter and a lover of all things nautical. He still owns a sailboat and has sailed around the world, taking open-sea trips to Hawaii, Canada and up and down the West Coast. In the 1960s King lived on the boat with his companion of the last 39 years, Nancy Stephens.

"Bill has a wonderful mind, and he is interested in so many things," Stephens said. "When he gets interested in something he pursues it and he learns it thoroughly. When we first met, he wasn't well-versed in classical music, and I was. Before I knew it, he knew way more than I did.

SELF-TAUGHT MAN

King traveled to the Soviet Union in the late 1970s after teaching himself to read, write and speak Russian, mostly on long flights during trips with the Warriors and Raiders. This thirst for self-taught knowledge is either ironic or appropriate for a man who did not go to college, choosing instead to begin his broadcasting career.

King's culinary tastes are legendary. He will concede only that he likes "things that people might consider unusual."

King has been known to dip entire pats of butter into a tub of popcorn during a game, and eat raw onions in the booth during the stifling days of summer. His morning favorite is peanut butter and chopped onions on warm tortillas.

"His latest concoction is this thing they make up for him at the ballpark and it has onions, tomatoes, salsa and nacho cheese sauce over popcorn," said A's broadcast partner Ken Korach. "It's like he eats whatever pops into his head."

"Bill is unique," said Franklin Mieuli, the former Warriors owner.

Mieuli was so enamored with his play-by-play man that he went to bat for King when KTVU-TV refused to put him on camera because of his beard, paid fines to the league for King when he criticized officials on the air, and answered the telephone calls when King uttered a profanity during a 1968 game that is recalled by those in the know as "NBA Mother's Day."

King came to the Bay Area in 1958, hired by KSFO radio to be a fill-in baseball broadcaster for Lon Simmons and Russ Hodges when the Giants and 49ers seasons began to overlap.

CAUGHT WITH HIS PANTS DOWN

"Chub Feeney owned the Giants at that point," said Simmons, who was King's partner for 15 years with the A's. "He was from New York, very much a suit-and-tie person. The first time Bill walked into the broadcast booth and took off his pants to do a broadcast, I think Chub almost had a heart attack."

To clarify, King only takes off his pants on hot days, and only after he's removed his shoes and socks first.

"In any weather, I don't like shoes and socks," King said. "But in hot and humid weather, I don't like sitting at a ballgame and then getting up after three hours and feeling like I've just taken a shower in my pants. So from the time I've been doing minor-league baseball, when I would work solo, I operated in my skivvies. Now in Texas or Baltimore, I always have a pair of trunks with me."

King's voice defined the golden eras of both the Warriors and Raiders. King called Warriors games from 1962-83 and Raiders games from 1966-92.

"It gives me chills when I hear some of those old calls," said former Raiders coach

and current Fox-TV analyst John Madden. "Those are things that stay with you all your life, the Clarence Davis catch against Miami, the San Diego call Anyone who has ever been a Raider fan will always associate Bill as the voice of the Raiders."

Given that many NFL and NBA games were not televised in the 1960s and 1970s, King was more than the voice of the game, he was its mind and body as well.

"Nobody has even been able to rise to an exciting moment and bring the excitement into the sound of their voice like Bill," said Giants announcer Jon Miller, an East Bay native. "It's not just shouting, it's the theatrical flair that he brings to it. Sometimes in an exciting moment, I find myself trying to do Bill."

LONG-LASTING IMPACT

To this day, every Warriors broadcaster finds himself compared to King, who hasn't done an NBA game in 15 years.

Greg Papa called Warriors games on the radio for nearly a decade. "I would be at a gas station or something and I would tell people what I did and they'd say, 'Oh, Bill King does that,'" Papa said. "His power over this market is immense."

Raiders fans clamored for King's return when the team moved from Los Angeles back to Oakland three years ago. King passed because he enjoyed the free time his baseball-only schedule allowed. He quit as the Raiders voice in 1992 after a falling out with the Southern California company that held the team's radio rights.

"It was very flattering," King said. "But in my mind, once I did baseball alone, I wouldn't think of doing another sport, and that was the operative reason there."

King is so happy with his schedule he has set no retirement date.

Said King, "It depends on whether I like what I'm doing, and whether I think—and I'm a fairly harsh personal critic—I'm still good at it, and whether people think I'm still good at it, because that's the most important thing."