

Additionally, during his first four years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Diggs also served on the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee (now House Resources). His ardent advocacy of statehood legislation was one of the prime subjects under its jurisdiction. Focus was on the Hawaii/Alaska proposals, which in 1959 established Democratic Hawaii and Republican Alaska as the 49/50th states in the union.

As chairman of the D.C. committee, Diggs sponsored legislation authorizing preservation of the Frederick Douglas Home in Anacostia, Southeast D.C., by having it designated a national historical site within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Interior Department. This designation replaced its previous benefactor, Dr. Rosa Cragg of Detroit and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, under whose aegis the Douglass Home unfortunately had languished, principally because of the latter's limited resources and those of the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association Inc.

In 1959 Diggs also became the first Black member of Congress appointed to the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He had sought this assignment after his selection in 1957 by President Eisenhower, to be part of the U.S. Delegation to the Independence of Ghana in West Africa. The delegation, headed by vice president Richard Nixon, had been flown there on a "prop-ship" through a midway island refuel stop, since this was before the "jet-propulsion" age.

The prime Foreign Affairs Committee consideration during his first two years was to authorize establishment of the Peace Corps. Given Diggs' enhanced African interest following referenced mission to Ghana, he knew how important the Peace Corps would be in furthering numerous developments on that ancient colonized continent. This prompted him to be one of the committee's strongest and most respected advocates of the Corps. Subsequent positive activities of Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) fully justified his continued, invaluable support.

Upon his request he was also appointed, in 1959, to the insignificant subcommittee on Africa, which he immediately stimulated. In 1969, a decade thereafter, he rose to its chairmanship and maintained historic levels of the committee's activation until his retirement in 1980. Based on his extensive travels abroad plus meetings with African leaders and elsewhere regarding African policies, plus his unmatched official hearings, Diggs became one of our nation's leading spokespersons on this subject.

TRANSAFRICA, America's premier think-tank on African and Caribbean issues, was founded in Diggs' office where its current executive director, Randall Robinson, was Diggs' administrative assistant.

In 1969-70 Diggs founded and became the first chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. William L. Clay, one of the important players in Congress and author of the book, "Just Permanent Interests," is the senior member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Inside the book, he states, "Charlie: We would not have made so much progress in the caucus had it not been for your leadership, signed Bill, 9/24/92." In 1971 Diggs served as a full delegate to the United Nation's general assembly while George Bush, with whom he had served in the House, was the Delegation's ambassador before he became president of the United States. Congressman Ed Derwinski (R-ILL) was another appointed full delegate and he later became the first secretary of the Veterans Administration.

In addition to his one semester at Fisk University, Nashville (1942-43) then being drafted into the U.S. Armed Services, there

have been only two other Congressmen, Bill Dawson (D-ILL.) and John Lewis (D-Ga.) who have been to that college. Diggs also has a mortuary science degree from Wayne State University, was the sole principal proprietor mortician in the Metropolitan Tri-State area of Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia, and was a Howard University graduate. He also holds honorary doctor of law degrees from Ohio's Wilberforce University and Central State College, North Carolina's Agricultural and Technical State University and the University of the District of Columbia.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene Diggs of Mississippi; six children, Charles C. Diggs III, Denise Taylor Diggs, Alexis Robinson Diggs, Douglass Diggs, Carla Mathis Diggs, Cindy Carter Diggs, and 12 grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO CLEVELAND AMORY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Friends of Animals, I'd like to pay tribute to a very special constituent of mine. Cleveland Amory, noted author and founder of The Fund for Animals, died at his home in New York City on Wednesday night. Mr. Amory devoted the last 31 years of his life to "speaking for those who can't" as the unpaid President of The Fund for Animals. In his years at the helm of this national animal protection group, he has imprinted millions in our society with the notion that we should treat animals with both decency and dignity.

During three decades of advocacy for animals, Mr. Amory and his group led the way in dramatic rescues of animals all over the country. He airlifted hundreds of wild burros from the Grand Canyon who were destined to be shot by the National Park Service. They joined thousands of other animals, all snatched out of harm's way by Mr. Amory, at his Black Beauty Ranch animal sanctuary in Texas.

Black Beauty Ranch now stretches over 1,000 acres and will serve as the final resting place for a man who was known as the grandfather of the animal protection community. The world needs more people like Cleveland Amory and I hope his legacy of compassion will continue to live on.

HONORING REGINALD F. MARRA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in praise of a man who has served with distinction in the Yonkers school system for 35 years—Reginald F. Marra. He started in 1963 as an Industrial Arts teacher at Yonkers High School and has recently retired as Superintendent of the state's fourth largest school district with 24,000 students and a quarter of a billion dollar operating budget.

His career has been one of increasing responsibility. His second position was as guidance counselor. In 1970 he was named Administrative Assistant, two years later he was named Assistant Principal and in 1973 Principal of Commerce Middle School.

A year later he went to Saunders Trades and Technical High School where, drawing on his experience, he established innovative programs to assure significant employment opportunities for his students.

In 1984 he became Director of Occupational Education and served as a Special Assistant to the Superintendent in 1986. From 1987 until 1993 he was Deputy Superintendent and that year he was named Superintendent.

He has worked tirelessly to redesign the school system in the areas of curriculum, standards, goals and accountability. Among his many accomplishments, he increased the use of computer networks, established community, university and business partnerships within each school to expand student opportunities, worked with the professional staff to improve morale and make the district competitive in attracting and retaining professional staff.

Reginald Marra has earned the respect and thanks of the City of Yonkers, its students, past, present and to come, and their parents. I am proud to join them in this salute.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Wednesday, October 14, 1998, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 530 and 531. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote 530 and yes on rollcall 531.

IN HONOR OF PATTY S. BRYANT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Patty S. Bryant, a teacher at Pleasure Ridge Park High School in my district of Louisville, Kentucky. Ms. Bryant will be honored with the First Place National Award for Teaching Economics by the National Council on Economic Education at its conference here in Washington, DC, tomorrow.

The National Awards program recognizes outstanding, innovative, economic education teaching practices, stimulating improvements in the teaching of economics and providing examples of innovative teaching practices for replication in classrooms around the country. The goal is to increase student economic understanding as a result of enhanced teaching practices.

The National Council on Economic Education is a unique nonprofit partnership of leaders in education, business and labor devoted to helping youngsters learn to think and function in a changing global economy.

The shocking reality is that high school and college students know little about how the economic system works and what they need to know to work successfully in it. The price of economic illiteracy is young people who are unfamiliar with the basics of saving, investing, the uses of money and credit and adults who

are more likely to have money problems, career problems and credit problems and less likely to make informed decisions as citizens and voters.

To combat economic illiteracy, the National Council on Economic Education developed a vast network of state councils and university-based centers, teaching approximately 120,000 teachers who, in turn, teach basic economics to over seven million students.

Ms. Bryant is being recognized for her program, "The Cost of War." This model applies economics instruction to her world civilization class. Because economics influences world events, this curriculum instills in students an understanding of the economic impact on historic events. Her hope is to engage students and inspire them to become active in community and national affairs.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Bryant deserves to be recognized for her innovative approach to educating students on the role of economics in our global environment. It is with great pleasure that I stand today to congratulate her and applaud her achievement.

**SAMMY SOSA: THE HERO OF
WASHINGTON HEIGHTS**

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sammy Sosa, the baseball player who—but for Mark McGwire—in any other year would have replaced the legendary Roger Maris as the single-season home run hitting champion. Sosa trailed McGwire in this year's dramatic and unprecedented home run derby. But in Washington Heights, Sosa is bigger than baseball and in the hearts of the people, he is number one.

The Dominican-born Sosa is the toast of Washington Heights, a vibrant, colorful neighborhood on the west side of my Congressional District, dominated by immigrants from the Dominican Republic. Dominicans are proud of their country and their community, and take special pride in those heroes who remember their roots. Sosa has done just that in his generosity toward the poor in his homeland—before and since Hurricane Georges—and in his expressed desire to participate in a neighborhood parade through the streets of Washington Heights.

Sosa grew up in poverty with his widowed mother and six siblings in a seaside town in the Dominican Republic. Today, at 29, after nine years in the big leagues, he is being paid \$42.5 million under a four-year contract. But throughout, he has maintained his humility, his exuberance for life, and his concern for his people. When Hurricane Georges devastated his country, taking as many as 200 lives, Sosa's foundation cranked up its operation to ship down desperately needed relief supplies. In his hometown, San Pedro de Macoris, Sosa's generosity had already earned him the title, Sammy Claus.

His countrymen in Washington Heights will join with all New Yorkers this weekend to let Sosa know just how much they appreciate him, on and off the field. He will be honored by John Cardinal O'Connor, head of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York; and there

will be a parade, if not in Washington Heights, then Broadway will do.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VERNON REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vernon Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Waukesha County landmark and symbol of religious freedom and Wisconsin's pioneering spirit. On October 18, the church will celebrate its founding 150 years ago in 1848, the same year Wisconsin achieved statehood.

Formed in a rural farmhouse on October 18, 1848, members of the church attended to their spiritual needs while the church structure was built. The result was a church society that was to construct the holy Covenanter church ever to exist in Wisconsin.

The Covenanters were part of a movement in Scotland during the late 16th Century that strove to defend the Presbyterian Church, a stance that brought them persecution by the Church of England and the British Crown. Many left Scotland and during the ensuing centuries carried their faith to new countries. Founders of the church in the Town of Vernon were of Scottish and Irish descent.

An active local congregation supported the church for more than 65 years, but the members could not sustain its regular operations. In recent decades, an annual service has been held at the church each fall conducted by a visiting Presbyterian minister.

The church building, completed in 1854, and an adjacent buggy shed and its grounds have been maintained by the church's cemetery association to preserve their appearance. Directors of the association are exploring the possibility of placing the church on the National Register of Historic Places.

This Sunday, October 18th, the church will celebrate its sesquicentennial with a special service. Descendants of church pioneers now live as far away as New England, Florida, Hawaii and Canada.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to recognize and commend the Vernon Reformed Presbyterian Church, a house of worship carved from the wilderness 150 years ago, through the courage and dedication of our Wisconsin pioneers.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of H.R. 3888, the Anti-Slamming bill. This bill prohibits a despicable practice that has seen tremendous growth over the past few years in the telecommunications industry.

Many of us have received phone calls from phone carriers advocating that we switch to their calling plan. For many consumers, it is an annoyance that they could live without. Even worse is the practice of "slamming", which occurs when a solicitous phone company, without full and proper authorization, changes the consumer's phone subscription so that they can indicate as the consumer's phone provider.

Under H.R. 3888, this type of practice is prohibited. The bill requires, before changing a consumer's telecommunications subscription, that a soliciting phone carrier affirm that the subscriber is authorized to change phone subscriptions, and that the subscriber fully acknowledges and intends to switch their telecommunications service from one carrier to another.

Under this bill, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is required to enact verification procedures which are aimed at inhibiting this practice. Those procedures include the preclusion of negative option marketing, and a requirement that a telecommunications provider complete and keep a copy of a verification of change in oral, written, or electronic form in their records. Furthermore, to protect recent immigrants, the FCC is asked to require that any verification of change correspondence be made in the same language as the original solicitous contact was made.

The bill also includes a provision authorizing the FCC to sanction corporations that violate any of their prescribed procedures. To buttress those sanctions, the bill allows the FCC to award monetary damages to the victims of this practice. Typically, those damages are set at the actual damages to the consumer or \$500, whichever is greater, but the FCC can also at certain instances, triple the damages. This provisions removes the incentive to "slam" because it undercuts the reason why phone companies do it, because it is profitable.

I support this bill because it protects consumers, not phone companies. IT makes sure that phone subscribers will also get the opportunity to make a smart, and informed decision when choosing how they want to communicate to the rest of the world, without being subjected to the trickery of under-handed telemarketers.

I encourage you all to vote for this bill, and strike a blow against opportunistic phone companies out to make a quick dollar at the expense of our hard-working consumers.

HONORING ROBERT G. STAUF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise a man who for more than three decades has given himself to the education of our youth and to the betterment of his community.

Robert Stauf started teaching in the Bronx in 1984 after graduating from Fordham College. For the next few years he taught at St. Philip Nerl School while he furthered his studies at Hunter College, where he did graduate work in guidance and school counseling, and at Manhattan College, where he did graduate work in administration.