

Grammy Nominations. The Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) has awarded Jimmy Sturr its most valued award, the "Commendation of Excellence"—the only one ever awarded in the polka field. Voted the "Number One Polka Band in the Country" for the past ten years, their recordings have earned both "Album of the Year" status in the polka music industry.

With his many successes, Jimmy Sturr still lives in the house where he grew up, and his office is located across the street from the high school he attended in the upstate village of Florida, New York which has a population of 1,800.

America is a melting pot that celebrates the richness of the cultures within its borders. Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra bring this richness into our modern lives. As we dawn on the 21st Century, I take this unique opportunity to honor Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra for their accomplishments. I look forward to learning of their many more accomplishments in the future.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1996 TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, February 8, 1998 marked the second anniversary of the passage of Telecommunications Act of 1996. Though the Act was signed with great fanfare, the promised competition and lower rates for consumers have been slow to materialize.

Delays through court appeals and what have become unsurmountable regulatory hurdles for the Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) have cost millions of dollars and valuable time in giving customers more options through competition. With the passage of the Telecommunications Act, came the assurance of lower rates and greater choices through competition. Where is the competition? Where are the lower rates? Why aren't they here?

By significantly reforming regulations over the industry, the new law promised that competition would drive rates down, produce better services, higher quality and consumers would be given more options. Well after two years, it is about time that all the hard work put into passing the Act start to pay off. Constituents don't know what the fourteen point checklist entails. They don't know what a Sec. 271 application is or what forbearance means. Why should they? But, what they do know is that their rates aren't coming down. Their choices haven't changed. Now that has to change.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the FCC and DOJ to remove the stumbling blocks to true competition. It is time to allow the Act to do what Congress intended for it to do, tear down the barriers to competition. Allow the industries to compete in each others' market. Allow consumers to have a say in who will provide their services. The time has come to focus on encouraging new services in new markets, rather than trying to protect the status quo.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
SYLVESTER THADDEUS GILLESPIE

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of the Reverend Sylvester Thaddeus Gillespie as the Grace United Methodist Church prepares to honor his service to the congregation on July 13, 1998. So often we reserve our strongest accolades and expressions of love for persons after they have passed away. I would like to break with that tradition in honoring a great preacher of the Gospel, the shepherd of the flock that is Grace United Methodist Church.

Reverend Gillespie, born in Starkville, Mississippi, received his B.A. from Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi and his M.Div. from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He also attended the Command and General Staff College of the U.S. Army in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From 1975 to 1995 Reverend Gillespie served as a U.S. Army chaplain, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was married to Barbara Bonney Gillespie, who passed away in 1994. Together they had two sons, Devokan and Damian.

In addition to serving as Army Chaplain, Reverend Gillespie has ministered to a number of congregations. These include Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Clearwater, Florida; John Wesley United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina; and the Wesley United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, California. In June 1991, he was appointed by Bishop Roy I. Sano to pastor Grace United Methodist Church.

Not only in Reverend Gillespie loved by his congregation at Grace Island, he is admired and respected by many others. He is often requested as a guest speaker by churches in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and for the Bishop Roy C. Nichols Preaching Series on Spiritual Renewal in Oakland, California. Just last year he received the Distinguished Leadership Citation for the development of a unique preaching/teaching ministry and church growth program from the Ebony Prophets of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

More than Reverend Gillespie's accomplishments as a minister, he is a compassionate man who always find time to comfort and assist those in need. He makes monthly visits to serve communion to shut-ins, lifts the spirits and prays with the hospital-bound, even spends time with members of his past congregations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our appreciation for Reverend Gillespie's great works.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commemorate one of the great Ameri-

cans of our century, Mr. Francis "Frank" Albert Sinatra. At the same time I rise to express the sadness that has befallen Palm Springs, the Nation and around the world. He was the son of immigrant parents, an entertainer, a humanitarian, a husband and a father, as well as a long-time resident of California and the City of Palm Springs. We mourn because we have lost someone who embodied so many of the traits that we admire—talent, triumph over adversity, friendship and caring.

"Ole' Blue Eyes" was the best at his craft, and we shall always remember him for this. He overcame his Depression-era roots in Hoboken, New Jersey to set the standard of excellence in many fields. His professional accomplishments are numerous and of legendary proportion. He starred in more than sixty films and recorded countless albums. His extraordinary talents were acknowledged in many ways. He won the Academy Award for his role in the 1953 film classic, *From Here to Eternity*. He won nine Grammy awards for his musical accomplishments. Certainly the most important reward for any performer is the love and respect he gets back from the audience. By the measure, Frank may have been the most successful entertainer in history. It was said that he had more than 2,000 fan clubs across the country.

People should also remember that he was devoted to numerous humanitarian and charitable causes, often without seeking the credit or publicity that he deserved. He lent his name as well as giving millions of dollars for a variety of very worthy causes including Desert Hospital, Catholic Charities and a Palm Springs celebrity golf tournament to help the victims of child abuse. In addition, one of the leading medical institutions of its kind is the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center which I am proud to say is located in and serves the Palm Springs and Desert Resort communities.

I was not a Member of Congress last year when this distinguished body voted to award him the Congressional Gold Medal. Nevertheless, I can attest that this was a fitting honor for a man of his high caliber. Now, as a Member, I wish to take this opportunity to send my deepest condolences to his wife Barbara, all of the children, and the entire Sinatra family at this most difficult time. Worldwide, the fans of one of the greatest entertainers of our time will carry memories of Frank with us always.

NAT BINGHAM, PACIFIC COAST VOYAGER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, recently, I received the news that Nat Bingham, Habitat Director for the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, had died in his Fort Bragg home. The loss of his life is a great loss for the many friends who knew and worked with Nat to protect threatened and endangered fisheries along our Pacific Coast. Nat's enthusiasm for his life's work was inspiring to all of us.

Nat was a most unusual human being. He was a fisherman who believed in sustainable fishing. Protecting fisheries from depletion

were goals that led Nat to develop a program to restore winter run chinook salmon at a time when there was little awareness of what their loss in the wild might mean. Many times, I've heard Nat use the phrase: "This is a biological insurance program."

Nat was a bridge across troubled waters. He confronted forceful opposition in his work and he always responded with grace, goodwill and solid science to support his positions. His ability to bring harmony out of discord was well known. Anyone who is aware of the Pacific Coast salmon decline also realizes that there are no simple solutions to the complex problems facing a number of salmon species in our region. Nat always had a way of emphasizing the positive and seeking solutions that would nurture and sustain the resource he devoted his life to protecting.

We will always remember Nat—the sight of his tall figure entering the office—completely relaxed and always with a smile, and his indefatigable nature and lasting commitment to protecting Pacific Coast fisheries. My condolences to Nat's family—his son, Eli, and his daughter, Jalena—and to Nat's many good friends—Zeke Grader, Norman deVall, members of the Fleet—and scores of others who knew, respected and loved Nat Bingham.

In the tradition of his family, Nat was an explorer; his great grandfather, Hiram Bingham, discovered Machu Picchu. We were fortunate to have been on the same journey with this special man. Our best memorial to Nat will be realized in following through with his initiatives to encourage sustainable fishing and to restore Pacific Coast fisheries. It is up to us now to continue Nat's voyage and to bring success to his efforts.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KEVIN F. BURNS ON HIS OFFER TO ATTEND THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Kevin F. Burns. Kevin was recently offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Very soon, Kevin, who is from Sandusky, Ohio will be graduating from St. Mary's Central Catholic High School, and preparing for one of the most challenging, educational, and rewarding experiences of his life: his four-year commitment at the Air Force Academy.

During his high school career at St. Mary's Central Catholic, Kevin excelled very well both academically and athletically. Through Kevin's dedicated efforts in the classroom, he attained a 3.3 grade point average. Kevin is a National Merit Scholar and has been placed in Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Kevin is also a very fine student-athlete. While at St. Mary's Kevin performed well on the fields of competition as a member of the Varsity Football Team and the Varsity Wrestling Team. Kevin has also made a strong commitment to community service with his participation in the St. Mary's Key Club.

Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the opportunity to nominate young men and women from my district to America's military academies. I am pleased that Kevin was among those offered appointments to join the United States Air Force Academy's Class of 2002. He is a gifted student and a fine young man. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Kevin Burns, and in wishing him well in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DRUG-FREE PORTS ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation entitled the "Drug-Free Ports Act." This bill allows local and state governments the ability to access Department of Justice information for the purpose of doing criminal background checks on port employees or applicants. I am introducing this bill at the formal request of the Broward County (Florida) Commission.

I am introducing this bill because of the high incidence of collusion between drug traffickers and port employees. These "internal conspiracies" are becoming a major avenue for bringing illegal drugs into the United States. To lessen the chance of future internal conspiracies, my bill would allow the local governing body the option to require port employees or applicants have clean records. The subject of this bill was discussed at length at a House National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice subcommittee hearing last July which I attended as an ex-officio member.

"Internal conspirators" are clever in the ways they help smugglers. They have been known to "innocently" swing a container in front of a surveillance camera in order to allow another container filled with drugs to pass through undetected. They also have been known to tip off smugglers regarding the routines of Customs officials to maximize the chance of success in bringing in contraband.

According to James Milford, a former head of the DEA in Miami, "Longshoremen are a source of frustration for us, particularly in South Florida. One of the things that concerns us is the ability of longshoremen to be utilized successfully in pulling cocaine shipments out of cargo and moving it out of the port with impunity."

In response to reports about internal conspiracies at Florida ports in the press, I requested that the Customs Service do a random sample of the arrest records of longshoremen at the Port of Miami and Port Everglades. The results were disturbing. Of a random sample of 50 Port of Miami longshoremen, 36 had arrest records. Of these 36 persons, they had a total of 213 arrests, including 68 drug arrests.

In a random sample of 38 Port Everglades longshoremen, 19 persons had arrest records. Of these 19 persons, they had a total of 73 arrests, including 14 drug arrests.

Consider the arrest records from the following three subjects:

Subject No. 1 from Port of Miami—arrested for robbery, assault and battery, carrying a concealed firearm, possession of a firearm by

a convicted felon, aggravated assault, possession of heroin with intent to distribute, possession of cocaine with intent to sell, possession of heroin with intent to sell, grand theft, petty theft, uttering a forged instrument, forgery of a U.S. Treasury check, possession of cocaine, simple battery, aggravated battery, petty theft.

Subject No. 2 from Port of Miami—arrested for immigration violation, cocaine possession, marijuana possession, aggravated assault, battery, loitering and prowling, narcotic equipment possession, aggravated assault, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, resisting arrest, obstructing justice, aggravated battery, burglary, and cocaine possession within 1,000 feet of a school.

Subject No. 3 from Port Everglades—arrested for armed robbery, assault with intent to commit murder, breaking and entering, disorderly conduct, shoplifting, burglary, dealing in stolen property, possession of cocaine, sale of cocaine, domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, since 1953, the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor has been conducting criminal background checks on certain port employees, and their system has worked well. Considering the torrent of drugs and other contraband that moves in and out of our ports, I do not consider it unreasonable for a local government to require clean records for the people who work on the docks. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this needed legislation.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CENTENNIAL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer congratulations to the Columbia University School of Social Work, the oldest social work training program in the nation, on the occasion of its Centennial. From its beginnings as a summer program organized by the Charity Organization Society of New York, the School of Social Work has had a long and distinguished history of pioneering research, informed advocacy and exceptional professional training.

Social workers have played key roles in every major social reform movement that has taken place in our nation—from settlement houses to labor reform, to the New Deal, to civil rights and voter registration. Many of the laws we take for granted today—Social Security, child labor restrictions, the minimum wage, the 40-hour work week, Medicare—came about because social workers saw injustice and helped to inspire the country to take action.

Throughout the 20th century, Columbia's faculty, students and alumni have worked tirelessly to address both the causes and symptoms of our most pressing social problems. National movements, such as the White House Conference on Children and the National Urban League, have emerged from projects undertaken by the School's faculty and administration in cooperation with professional and community organizations. The entire nation has benefited from the work of people like Eveline Burns (Social Security); Mitchell I. Ginsberg (Head Start); Richard Cloward (welfare rights and voter registration); Alfred