

1997-98 VFV VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION "MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"

(SCOTT WILSON, FLORIDA WINNER)

Stop and listen. Listen to the past, to the glorious voices of our Democracy. Do you hear them speaking? Their words softly vibrate with each ring of our liberty bell, and echo loudly in the crash of a judge's gavel. They whisper from the forgotten pages of our Constitution, and scream from the dying lips of a fallen soldier. Their words are of freedom, justice, and equality and their voice is the voice of democracy. Stop and look. Look to the future. Behold, the golden sun of the twentieth century casts its final rays over the ever-darkening horizon, and the dawn of a new millennium rises. Yet now, many have forgotten the timber of democracy's magnificent voice. Its whisperings are barely audible now, diminished by the passage of time. The voice of democracy must be amplified by the megaphone of a new generation, so that the America of tomorrow will need not strain to hear its mighty declaration. But it begins with me. I must be the first megaphone. America will hear my voice in our democracy.

In 1775, American democracy was but a newborn babe, struggling to snap the umbilical cord of a tyrannical British monarchy. Lack of unity heightened the struggle, as colonial Tories, too timid to jump from the safety of the nest, clung tightly to their mother country. Meanwhile, true American patriots, few in number, desperately needed a spokesman. And in the Virginia House of Burgesses, Patrick Henry stepped to the platform. Henry strongly felt that the colonists should arm themselves for a war with Britain, in which they would cast off the bitter yoke of political enslavement. He is forever remembered for seven, soul-stirring words which emulated the very heart of the American revolution: "Give me liberty, or give me death!" And later, at the genesis of the American Constitution, Henry was among the creators of the Bill of Rights, which insured the people of their basic freedoms. Yes, in the turbulent age of the Revolution, the voice of freedom was calling, and Patrick Henry answered its call. Today, the voice of freedom is still calling through the corridors of time searching for someone to magnify her majestic voice. I will be that someone, who like Patrick Henry, steps to the platform in defense of freedom's voice. And when I behold the basic freedoms of man covered by a menacing storm of political scheming and deceit, I will help to pull back the clouds to reveal the rainbow of liberties that is the American birthright, and the democratic promise.

Since the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation, the United States has grappled with the issue of racial equality. But like a boxer that beats the air, we have landed few direct punches to the face of inequality's true opponent—discrimination. And even in the 1960's, racism had not yet received its rightful knockout blow. That is, until Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stepped into the ring. In August of 1963, 200,000 protesters marched to the Lincoln Memorial, and stood as sheep about its reflecting pool, listening to their shepherd speak these moving words: "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal." Today, nearly thirty-five years later, we still dream his dream, because when the vote of equality was calling, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., answered its call. But like freedom's voice, the voice of equality searches for someone new. Here again, I will be that someone, who climbs into the ring of

combat. And when I pass through the peaceful fields of equality, freshly trampled by the deafening machine of unfounded discrimination, I will glean from the lives of the past, and sow the seeds of democracy for future generations, so that in due time, they will reap an abundant harvest of racial tranquility.

And now I ask you: As the dawn of the new millennium rises, who will rise up with it, to echo the voice of democracy in the approaching age? Who will it be that opens the eyes of Americans to the truth of human equality? And who will it be that ensures future Americans of their right to freedom and justice? The past is speaking, but will you the future listen? The past is challenging, but will you the future respond? I am listening, and I will respond. I will be the new megaphone, that amplifies the democratic voice when freedom's rainbow cannot be seen, when justice's gavel is strangely mute, and when equality's harvest is trampled underfoot. America will hear me shout: "Freedom!" "Justice" "Equality!" Assuredly, my voice will be heard in our democracy.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM M.
CAFARO

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a William M. Cafaro, who passed away recently at the age of 84. This remarkable self-made man contributed greatly to his family, his community and this country. He will be deeply missed.

William, a lifelong resident of Trumbull County, Ohio, emergency as a real estate developer and entrepreneur began in the 1940s with the purchase of property in Youngstown, Ohio. When he sold this property, he used the proceeds for other business investments. The 50's saw Cafaro develop, build and operate neighborhood shopping centers and strip plazas in northeastern Ohio. In the following decades, The Cafaro Co. developed more than 70 commercial properties and expanded into enclosed regional shopping malls in several states including Washington, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Cafaro helped change the way America shopped.

Mr. Cafaro will be remembered by the people of the Mahoning Valley as a generous philanthropist and real estate developer. With a \$1 million gift, Cafaro was one of the major donors in Youngstown State University's capital campaign. The honors dormitory on the YSU campus bears his name. Other organizations, including Mill Creek Children's Center and St. Anthony Church, have benefitted from his kindness. His business savvy also began early. The shopping mall he opened in Niles, Ohio in 1969 has grown into a retailing and entertainment complex that promises continued growth. Surrounding the mall now are stores and restaurants offering everything from movies to groceries to home improvement goods. Cafaro's last deed for his community was to commit to the construction of a stadium for minor league baseball play. The Cafaro Company will absorb the \$7.5 million cost and donate the land for the project. Due to Mr. Cafaro's leadership, the groundbreaking for the stadium will begin in June 1998.

Cafaro was often recognized for his generosity and philanthropic work. On a number of occasions he was named "Man of the Year", including by the Wolves Club National Convention. In 1970, the president of the Republic of Italy made him a Knight of the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity or Italian Cavalier. Most recently he received a lifetime achievement award from the National Italian American Foundation of Washington, D.C.

Simply by keeping the Cafaro Company headquarters in the Mahoning Valley, Mr. Cafaro showed the vision and pride he had for the area. He was a businessman whose handshake was his bond. A gentleman who honored his family and friends. He had an unparalleled sense of community which is evident nearly everywhere in the Valley.

The citizens of the Mahoning Valley and I mourn with the Cafaro family upon the great loss of this giant among men, William M. Cafaro.

IN HONOR OF POLISH
CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the two-hundred seventh anniversary of the Polish Constitution. The Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 established a tradition of democracy and human rights in Poland that continues today.

The Polish Constitution has the honor of being the first Constitution in Europe to give inalienable human and economic rights for all. In the turbulent 1790's of classical Europe, Poland emerged as a beacon for the future of democracy in this unstable land. While other nations surrounding its sovereign borders engaged in revolution and civil war, Poland maintained its integrity for many years under this Constitution.

The rise of Soviet communism in the post-World War II era stemmed the Polish democratic principle for forty years, but under the capable leadership of Lech Walesa, democracy embodied in this Constitution returned to the Eastern European "cradle of democracy." The human and economic rights that were abandoned by years of communist rule returned triumphantly in recent years.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring the people of Poland, their long struggle for democracy, and their timeless Constitution.

A TRIBUTE TO THE
WESTHAMPTON BEACH HIGH
SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and emotion that I rise today in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the boys high school basketball team at my alma mater. Westhampton Beach High School, on Long Island. This past weekend, the Hurricanes came home with the school's first ever