

family later moved to Columbia's Fort Jackson, where he was responsible for athletic facilities. Mrs. Frye died in 1997.

It was in 1953 that he came to work for the University of South Carolina and was placed in charge of athletic facilities. His duties were expanded to include supervision of grounds for the entire university. South Carolina named its baseball facility, "Sarge Frye Field" in 1980 to honor its groundskeeper. The American Baseball Coaches Association named Frye National Groundskeeper of the Year in 1993. Sarge retired in 1977, but continued to supervise operations through mid-1997. In addition to groundskeeping and landscaping duties, Sarge operated the game clock for men's and women's basketball games at the Carolina Coliseum for many years.

Sarge Frye was inducted into the USC Athletic Hall of Fame and the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame. He was an honorary member of the USC Association of Lettermen and the USC Alumni Association.

Surviving are his daughter, Nancy Frye Stiehr of Columbia; son, Jerry L. Frye and his wife, Jayne, of Greenville; sister, Norma Pope of Dallas, Texas; brothers, Kenneth Frye of Jackson, Tenn., Huey Frye of Florida, and Martin Allin of Bolivar, Tenn.; four grandchildren, Jay L. Frye and his wife, Kim, of Columbia, Mamie Frye Clayton and her husband, Richard, of Columbia, Debbie Stiehr Smith and her husband, Allen, of Charlotte, and Eric Stiehr and his wife, Marianne, of Columbia; and five great-grandchildren, Cole and Tucker Smith, Mary-Riley, Heyward and Emma Clayton. He was predeceased by a son-in-law, Pete Stiehr.

A TRIBUTE TO GEOFFREY ARONOW—OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**HON. ARTUR DAVIS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2003*

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in February of this year, I joined with individuals from the President's Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area for dinner at the home of two of its members, Charlie Cerf and Cynthia Dunbar.

On that occasion, I learned a great deal about the activities of this particular Affiliate of the National ACLU, and I met and talked with its President, Geoffrey Aronow. I found him to be a person who is very committed to preserving and protecting civil liberties. I understand that Mr. Aronow recently retired from his position as President, and I believe it is important that we pause, acknowledge his dedicated service and thank him for his untiring and selfless work in behalf of the cause of defending our Constitution.

These are indeed difficult times, times that challenge us in many ways, puzzling and unpredictable times. Mr. Aronow's presidency spanned the months and now years since the events of September 11th, 2001. I have come to learn that, through it all, he has been steadfast, unwavering, unequivocal and unambiguous in his words as well as his deeds when matters of the Bill of Rights are at stake. He appreciates that the legal experience in America is enriched and venerated by citizens and non-citizens alike because our history is one

of fierce defense of the liberties guaranteed by the first Ten Amendments.

Mr. Speaker, America is not great due to our advanced technology, our many resources or our military might. Those things make us strong. They do not make us great. America is great because of citizens like Geoffrey Aronow, the best and the brightest we have to offer, the most noble, those of unparalleled integrity. He deserves our appreciation for a job well done.

NWOKOMA SAMPSON AND THE MICROSOFT/AAPD FEDERAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2003*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention and to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding summer internship program that has been implemented by the American Association of People with Disabilities [AAPD] and Microsoft Corporation. This Federal Internship Program provides ten college students—including Nwokoma Sampson, of Merriam, Kansas, which is in my congressional district—with paid summer internships this year working in information technology for one of several participating agencies of the U.S. government.

Nwokoma Sampson attended California State University at Northridge [CSUN], where he was the first black deaf student to graduate with a computer science degree. This internship gave him a means to expand upon the experience he gained in previous internships and on his general technology experience. I am confident that the internship has also afforded him the chance to become familiar with the federal government's working environment and to obtain knowledge that will be an invaluable tool for his evaluation when applying for permanent federal positions. I am including with this statement an article about Nwokoma's experiences that was recently published in the Kansas City Star.

As Mariana Nork with the American Association of People with Disabilities has described their joint effort with Microsoft, "This is a unique program because it's focused on people with disabilities. This program provides opportunities for the interns, but it is also a great chance for the participating public agencies to learn more about people with disabilities and to realize that there's a wide pool of untapped talent in the disabled community." Microsoft and AAPD developed a two-year program to provide 25 paid information technology internships to college students with disabilities in ten different federal agencies, with Microsoft providing \$325,000 to fund the program and AAPD overseeing the program's administration. The grant provides each student with a stipend, free accessible housing and transportation, and any costs related to arranging special worksite accommodations that may be necessary. The program is open to any college or university student who has a disability and has demonstrated an interest in a career in information technology. Participating agencies have included the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Established in 1995, the AAPD is the largest cross-disability membership organization in the United States, with over 40,000 members. AAPD's mission is the political and economic empowerment of the more than 56 million people in the United States living with disabilities. I commend AAPD and Microsoft for their joint effort to develop and implement this important federal internship program, which has enhanced opportunities for several disabled individuals, including my constituent, Nwokoma Sampson.

[From the Kansas City Star, July 30, 2003]  
STUBBORNLY SEEKING SUCCESS: MERRIAM MAN HASN'T LET DEAFNESS OR HIS START IN WEST AFRICAN POVERTY STOP HIM

(By Kati Jividen)

Call him Nwokoma Sampson or Oma Sampson. He is both. A hearing man. A deaf man. That's according to his resumes.

"I did get some response from the one I posted using Oma without indicating that I am deaf," the 34-year-old Merriam man wrote in an online chat. "But whenever I reply to the recruiter seeking to do an interview, and I tell them I am deaf, I hardly hear from them again." It's discouraging—Sampson won't lie. But, like everything else that has happened in his life, he is not going to sit back and be a quiet observer. He'll let someone else do that.

"When I was at CSUN (California State University-Northridge), deaf students who were enrolled in computer science program with me dropped out," he wrote. "By the time we reached our second year, I found myself all alone and struggling to the end. I guess that is why my parents believe that I am stubborn, but I need to be stubborn with my problems in order to overcome them." Sampson, who was born in the jungle of West Africa, grew up in poverty. After earning a graphic design diploma in Lagos, Nigeria, he put everything behind him and moved to America "in search of the American dream or rather the proverbial golden fleece," he wrote.

In Nigeria, Sampson was the first deaf student to attend the Yaba College of Technology. He also is the first black deaf student to graduate with a degree in computer science from Cal-State-Northridge. Plus, he wrote, English is his third language behind sign language and Igbo, a language spoken by the Igbo tribe of Nigeria. "Nigeria had little opportunity for me," wrote Sampson, who shares his home with his wife of almost one year, Mei Yuk Maggie Sampson, a counselor at Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe.

"Actually, I wanted to study medicine, but Nigeria university at that time did not accept deaf students. Neither do they provide interpreters for deaf students at the university level. I had to choose graphic design, which depends more on vision, so that I could teach myself and survive in the class without too much trouble."

He found himself in the same predicament at Cal-State where he recently graduated with a computer science degree and \$50,000 in debt. "I could not work and go to school because I had to teach myself everything and even study during summer breaks in advance for the classes I am going to enroll in the following semester," Sampson wrote. But now that Sampson has earned his degree (six years in the making) he is able to spend this summer on an information technology internship in Washington, D.C. He is living in a dorm room at George Washington University, working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He has helped with the agency's transition to the Department of Homeland Security.