

the Argentine Congress' Impeachment Committee on charges of non-professional behavior involving 138 irregularities and several serious crimes regarding BAYS alone. Radical Party members on the committee supported Bergés, which startled many observers wary of the Party's corruption problems stemming from the Alfonsín-led Radical government of the 1980s. But, in spite of its delegation's stance, the entire Impeachment committee moved to indict Bergés for abuse of power and failure in his public duties. He insisted that BAYS had "cast a spell on him," and then withdrew from the case. Although no ultimate action was taken, the case eventually was handed over to Corvalán, who now presides.

DR. CORVALÁN, PSYCHIATRIST

Instead of applying responsible jurisprudence in the BAYS case, Judge Corvalán grossly compounded his predecessor's malfeasance. Engaging in flagrant misuse of his powers, Corvalán emulated the worst practices of the Stalinist era by condemning BAYS members on grounds of poor mental health, without considering due process. Corvalán, who was appointed to the bench under the Argentine military junta (and maintained his position due to Alfonsín's intervention), declared the two BAYS members "mentally incompetent," and awarded legal custody over them to their long-estranged mothers. His ruling was upheld by an Appellate Court, even though the psychological exams of the BAYS defendants were administered by a court-appointed forensic team, and showed them of sound mind. These mental health specialists also established that one defendant has been sexually abused by her family. If this wasn't Argentina—a country featuring daily scandals—it would be inconceivable that a judge, ignoring expert testimony and with no concrete evidence, would award custody of a 27-year old woman to the very person who she previously had charged with sexual depravity. After being armed with such powers, the mother promptly filed a bondage suit against BAYS in the name of her daughter. After a recent mission to Argentina by the Council on Hemisphere Affairs, the members expressed their concern in a letter to President Clinton: "The Delegation found many legal and judicial irregularities. . . ." Argentine human rights organizations have begun to denounce the anti-BAYS actions committed by judicial officials.

Nobel laureate, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel found that Corvalán's ruling on BAYS "begs to be investigated," and the famed Mothers of Plaza de Mayo concluded that he had violated Article 16 of the International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights. The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo maintained that Corvalán's actions "are similar to those committed against citizens during Argentina's dirty war. . . ." Corvalán's removal from the BAYS case has been requested before the Council of Magistrates, a new institution that evaluates judicial impropriety and instances of corruption. The case is now being heard by its "Accusation Commission," headed by Radical Representative Cruchaga. Thus, the case was destined to be dismissed, but due to the persistence of Council member Miguel Angel Picchetto, who argued that the charges against Corvalán must be heard, Cruchaga announced that because of the "international

interest" in the case, a hearing would be held. The petition for relief filed by the BAYS defendants has been warmly supported by, among others, the distinguished physicist and human rights figure Dr. Federico Westerkamp, the Argentine League for the Rights of Man, and members of the Argentine House Human Rights Commission.

The proceedings against Corvalán are attracting wide dissemination because challenging the judge's multiple transgressions is seen as an important milestone in Argentina's laborious struggle to earn the emblems of an authentic democracy and to somehow neutralize judicial and political corruption.

HONORING THE TOWN OF GRAFTON

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure today to rise to honor the heroism of the people of the Town of Grafton in the wake of the Fisherville Mill fire that struck the town on the night of August 3, 1999.

The Fisherville Mill has always been a significant historic site. It was considered to be a fine example of late 19th century industrial architecture. A longtime site of textile production, Fisherville mill was one of three such mills in the area built during the first third of the nineteenth century. The mill remained vibrant through the nineteenth and into the twentieth century until the onset of the Great Depression.

However, in recent years the mill, which once employed 700 workers, became slated for EPA clean up due to chemical pollution. And even after the fire, the Central Massachusetts Economic Development Authority, which currently owns the site, plans to pursue clean-up efforts at the site.

As many as 250 firefighters and over 100 support personnel responded to the scene, including crews from Ashland, Auburn, Foxboro, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Leicester, Marlboro, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Oxford, Sherborn, Shrewsbury, Southbridge, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Westboro, and Worcester as well as the State Forestry Department and a crew from Providence, RI. Together they courageously worked along side their brothers from Grafton to subdue the blaze, the likes of which Grafton has never before seen and hopefully never will again.

Mr. Speaker, we often see communities come together in the wake of great disasters. However, seldom have I seen such an outpouring of support as I have in the town of Grafton. If it had not been for the valiant efforts of fire fighters from around the Commonwealth quite possibly the entire town may have burned to the ground. It is therefore my great honor to recognize the bravery and courage of everyone in Grafton—firefighters, police, community and business leaders, as well as ordinary citizens for their response which should make all of us proud.

HONORING GAIL FREEMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to pay tribute to Mrs. Gail Freeman, the Illustrious Commandress of Oman Court No. 132. The Daughters of Isis, Ancient and Accepted Free Masons, based in Flint, Michigan, will honor Mrs. Freeman at their annual Commandress Ball on October 23, 1999.

Gail Freeman began her education at Jefferson Elementary School in Detroit, and after moving to Flint, attended Bryant Junior High School, and eventually graduated from Flint Northwestern High School. She attended Baker School of Business and Charles Stewart Mott Community College, where she constantly sought courses designed to enhance her position and ability in the business field.

Gail soon began a career with Michigan Bell, now known as Ameritech, one that spanned over 26 years. During this time, she has held positions such as Supervisor of Building Services, Clerk to the Public Relations Manager, and Network Services Representative. She currently holds a position as a Customer Service Representative for the Customer Care center in Ameritech's Saginaw office. She also works as a realtor for ERA Real Estate, where she has distinguished herself as a member of the company's Million Dollar Club, for her outstanding sales. She has been recognized for stellar achievement in both of her occupations.

As a member of Oman Court No. 132, Gail has a long history of leadership, leading up to her current position as Illustrious Commandress. She has served as Grand Loyal Lady Ruler of the Michigan State Grand Assembly, and has served as their treasurer for the last nine years. Outside of the group, Gail continues her role of community leader. She has served as a Girl Scout Troop Leader, president of the Merrill Elementary School Parent Teacher Council, and works with local "Adopt A Child" programs. She also finds time to volunteer and work with the sick and shut-in.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring the Illustrious Commandress, Mrs. Gail Freeman. Her devotion to making this nation a better place to live should reinforce our strong commitment to our communities. We own a debt of gratitude to Gail, her husband James, and their two daughters.

HONORING ROBERT AND DOROTHY
HAKENHOLZ ON THE OCCASION
OF THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two longtime residents of Overland Park, Kansas, Robert and Dorothy Hakenholz, who have