Despite numerous obstacles over the last two years, the TDF continues to remain operational. I am pleased to convey to the TDF that, as of the end of the 1700s, it has reviewed over 300 telecommunications business proposals with a staff of less than five people, confined operational overhead expenses to 5.2 percent of its total budget, and recently announced funding for small business entrepreneurs who will provide telecommunications services to undeserved communities. Remedying the technical deficiencies outlined in the previous paragraphs will ensure the continued viability of the TDF.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my House colleagues to join me in ensuring that the Telecommunications Development Fund is a viable entity in today's ever-evolving telecommunications frontier.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. GEORGE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 200 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the parishioners of the St. George’s Episcopal Church because they celebrate the 200th Anniversary of their church building on Sunday, November 21. Located in Valley Lee in the Southern Maryland County of St. Mary’s, St. George’s has been serving the faithful since the reign of William and Mary some 360 years ago; hence it is also known as the William and Mary Parish.

Following the establishment of the Maryland Colony by Leonard Calvert in 1634, the settlement at St. Mary’s began to grow with the establishment of St. George’s Hundred, a piece of land across the St. Mary’s River and west of the Capital settlement of St. Mary’s City. Maryland is known as the birthplace of religious toleration in Colonial America and along with Catholic settlers and settlers of other faiths came followers of the Anglican church. Some of these colonists would establish the Poplar Hill Church—thought to have been built between 1638 and 1642 just 50 feet from the site of the present building.

Over the years, the William and Mary Parish would worship in several buildings. A second church is believed to have been built on the existing site in 1692 and a third structure around 1760. In 1799, the existing structure was built and today we recognize this incredible 200 year journey.

Just as members of the Parish no doubt celebrated the dedication of their new building in 1799 on the verge of a new century, today we celebrate two hundred years of progress at Poplar Hill as we count down the remaining days to the new millennium.

The parishioners of St. George’s have been witness to extraordinary events and their history bridges a time line of critical events in our Nation’s history—from the fledgling colony of the 1600s, the rise of revolution in the 1700’s, the Civil War and the abolition of slavery in the 1800’s, and the transformation of St. Mary’s County from its rural way of life to the 21st century, and the transformation of St. George’s Parish has been a beacon of faith serving to enrich its parishioners with God’s word and providing a firm foundation to do His work.

I commend St. George’s Episcopal Church on the 200th Anniversary of their building and wish their parishioners all the best in the future.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CATHY HUGHES, FROM RAGS TO RICHES

HON. ELLIE E. CUMMINGS
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, breaking the cycle of past racial discrimination has been a mission of African Americans across this country. Wishing for only an opportunity, great African Americans, in many fields and industries, have struggled to feed to this country and this world, the fruits of their talents and labor. In the process, many have tried and failed, but a few have beaten the odds and have made a major impact. Perhaps one of the greatest examples of those who have crumbled the walls of bias and discrimination, is one of the Maryland 7th District’s brightest stars. Through the determination against African Americans and women entrepreneurs, Catherine Hughes would not be defeated. She flew to high heights.

Mrs. Hughes, the founder and chairwoman of Radio One, with her mind set on waking America to injustice, bigotry, and discrimination, has revolutionized the radio industry from an African American point of view. Cathy Hughes had a dream—a dream to create an information-based radio program geared towards the African American community. With very humble beginnings at Howard University’s radio station, WMUR—FM, she set out to realize this dream.

In 1979, Mrs. Hughes and her husband made their first venture into the welcoming world of broadcasting by purchasing WOL (AM) in Washington, DC. She aired a radio talk show, which she hosted with her husband. Although investors did not share her vision, Cathy Hughes struggled on in pursuit of her dream.

In 1986, Mrs. Hughes made her first effort to expand. She attempted to form a “community corporation” to purchase WKYS (FM) from NBC, but couldn’t raise the necessary funding before the company was sold. Still in pursuit of her dream, in 1991, she purchased WMMI (FM) in Washington. She also again pursued WKYS and in 1994, she finally purchased the station.

Mrs. Hughes took advantage of her own business skills to build the foundation of her broadcast kingdom, and all the while, Mrs. Hughes never lost sight of her goal to inform. She remained active in protesting social and political issues: so much so, that many feared she would lose sponsors. However, she kept lending her voice to issues of concern to her community. She was strongly opposed to the Washington Post Magazine’s decision to feature an African American rapper accused of murder on their cover. She protested the indictment and imprisonment of former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, and the expulsion of Larry Young from the Maryland State Legislature. She also spoke out about several FCC telecommunications issues to help ensure that the door to the broadcast industry would not be closed behind her and that others could also pursue their dreams.

Her dynamic achievements as a businesswoman didn’t inhibit her from excelling in other