September 10, 2001

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Hallmark Channel in partnership with the Jim Henson Company for their recent gift to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Their generous contribution of this license will help the Commission relaunch a national v-chip campaign utilizing Kermit the Frog as the official “spokesfrog” empowering parents with the tools they need to control the programming that their children view.

The Hallmark Channel and Jim Henson Company have recognized the importance of the v-chip and ratings initiatives in empowering viewers to control what comes into their homes over their television sets. Last year, these companies developed an award-winning promotional campaign that designated the world famous and beloved figure of Kermit the Frog as national “spokesfrog” for the chip and television ratings system. This year, the Hallmark Channel and Jim Henson Company have gone even further by giving the FCC a license to use Kermit on the informational materials that it distributes. The Commission just completed publication of this new brochure for widespread dissemination.

I am proud to have the world headquarters of Hallmark located in my home district in Kansas City, Missouri. The company has a long history of serving the metropolitan Kansas City area as well as other communities throughout the nation. Hallmark has repeatedly been recognized as one of the most outstanding places to work in the country. Its creative environment is family focused, which invites its associates to excel and work to their full potential each and every day. Clearly, Hallmark is an outstanding national model of corporate citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives in commending the Hallmark Channel and Jim Henson Company for this generous gift to the FCC. Their ongoing efforts to provide the viewing public with family friendly programming choices, and their helping in educating the public about the v-chip and the ratings systems are greatly appreciated.

HONORING MR. JIM BRAY

Mr. McNINSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to the passing of a valuable member of our community. The life of Jim Bray, a former resident of Snowmass, Colorado, was cut short at the age of 66 when he was hit by a car in front of his home in Prescott, Arizona. I would like his wife, Susan, and his sons, Alexander and Dennis, to know that many hearts are reaching out to them in their time of mourning.

Jim Bray was an accomplished man with a strong character. He was born in Halstead, Kansas in 1935. He graduated from high school in Houston, Texas in 1953 after which he attended both the University of Houston and the University of Hawaii. He then went on to serve in the United States Marine Corps and the United States Air Force. His enduring drive led to a respected career as a professional hotel manager eventually bringing him to Snowmass, Colorado where he was a driving force behind the construction of the Snowmass Resort Association’s Conference Center. Although he remained there for only 5 years, he had made a valuable contribution to the community that will endure for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, although the sudden death of Jim Bray is certainly unexpected, his memory will live in the hearts of many. His contributions and service to the community and the United States will not be forgotten. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jim Bray. He will surely be missed.

HONORING CONNI LOGAN

Mr. McNINSS, Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to acknowledge the loss of a valuable member of our community. Conni Logan suffered from a brief illness that took her life on August 13, 2001, at the age of 59. Conni was a loving wife and mother who had a deep passion for the arts and dedicated her life to teaching that appreciation to others.

Conni was born in 1942 as one of seven children in a family that valued and encouraged diversity. She went on to graduate from college with a degree in psychology after which she received master's degrees in art history and exhibition design.

Although living in Santa Fe, New Mexico when she passed, she had made valuable contributions to the State of Colorado as an educator. In 1993, she was a Program Director at the Aspen Campus of the Colorado Mountain College. Conni earned her MFA in Art in 2000 and was responsible for a comprehensive program of 30 art exhibits during her time there. She also developed and instructed art history and principles in art.