

neurobiological disorders, and ensuring that all mothers and babies are adequately cared for.

A SALUTE TO PFC JAMES W.
REESE OF CHESTER

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to PFC James W. Reese on the occasion of the rededication of the James W. Reese Army Reserve Center.

PFC James W. Reese, a native son of Chester, PA, and Delaware County Congressional Medal of Honor winner, was born April 16, 1920. Bill, as he was affectionately referred to by his friends, attended public school in Chester, graduating from Chester High School in 1938. Entering the service in November 1941, Bill was assigned to the 26th Infantry, First Infantry Division stationed in Florida. Bill was with the division when they landed in North Africa and crossed the Mediterranean to assault the shores of Sicily at midnight on July 9, 1943. It was there that Bill won his country's highest decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor, as he lost his life fighting bravely against heavy enemy odds. His citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty in action involving actual conflict with the enemy on August 5, 1943 at Mt. Vassillio, Sicily. When the enemy launched a counterattack which threatened the position of his company, Private Reese, as Acting Squad Leader of a 60MM mortar squad, displayed superior leadership and on his own initiative, maneuvered his squad forward to a favorable position, from which, by skillfully directing the fire of his weapon, he caused many casualties in the enemy ranks and aided materially in repulsing the counterattack. When the enemy fire became so severe as to make his position untenable, he ordered the other members of his squad to withdraw to a safer position, but declined to seek safety for himself. So as to bring more effective fire upon the enemy, Private Reese, without assistance, moved his mortar to a new position and attacked an enemy machine gun nest. He had only three rounds of ammunition but secured a direct hit with his last round, completely destroying the nest and killing the occupants. Ammunition being exhausted, he abandoned the mortar, seized a rifle and continued to advance, moving into an exposed position overlooking the enemy. Despite a heavy concentration of machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, the heaviest experienced by his unit throughout the entire Sicilian campaign, he remained at his position and continued to inflict casualties upon the enemy until he, himself was killed. His bravery coupled with his gallant and unswerving determination to close in on the enemy, regardless of the consequences and obstacles which he faced, are a priceless inspiration to our armed forces.

In light of these brave and unselfish acts in the face of enemy fire, I am honored to join the U.S. Army in rededicating this reserve center to Bill Reese who represents all of the many heroic service personnel both past and present who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that you and I may live as free Americans.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD SUGGS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, constituent, and a wonderful American, Dr. Donald Suggs.

Dr. Suggs is a man of many gifts and talents, and shares each selflessly with his community and friends. As president and publisher of the No. 1 African-American weekly newspaper in America, the St. Louis American, Donald keeps the metropolitan St. Louis community apprised of prevalent issues on the Federal, State, and local levels. Each week more than 65,000 readers in the area pick up a copy of the free publication to read about politics, business, the arts, and other subjects of interest to the broader African-American community.

Each year the St. Louis American spotlights the community's unsung heroes at the "St. Louis American Salute to Excellence in the Community". Proceeds from the banquet held in honor of the recipients are used to fund scholarships for promising young men and women in the community.

In addition to running the newspaper company, Dr. Suggs provides medical service to indigent residents in his successful oral surgery practice. He is also president of Alexander-Suggs Gallery of African American Art, a founding board member of the Center for African Art in New York, and serves on the board of directors of the Regional Commerce and Growth Association.

It gives me great pleasure to share with our colleagues an inspirational account of the life of Dr. Donald Suggs as recorded in the September 1996 edition of St. Louis Commerce.

[From the St. Louis Commerce/September 1996]

THE AMERICAN WAY

In addition to being a practicing oral surgeon, an activist during the civil rights movement, an art dealer and collector, a managing principal in a pre-paid dental plan and a partner in an airport retail concession business, Donald M. Suggs somehow has found the time and energy to steer one of the most acclaimed African-American newspapers in the country into 40 to 45 percent of all African-American households in the St. Louis metro area.

Suggs and two partners bought the St. Louis American in 1980. A few years later, Suggs brought a majority share and took an active role in the paper's operation in 1984.

"The decision to be involved in The St. Louis American was not a well-thought-out business decision," remembers Suggs, who is president and publisher. "The paper was burdened with debt in a segment of publishing that didn't have any discernible prospects for growth."

As publisher, Suggs has been able to raise capital through his personal resources and company earnings, reduce the paper's debt load, increase circulation and bolster the staff in key positions.

"Revenues have multiplied by five in the last nine years and our revenue from the first two quarters of this year is up 23 percent over last year," remarks Suggs. The newspaper is distributed free from more than 650 distribution points throughout the St. Louis area.

Ten years ago, the circulation for the American averaged from 4,000 to 6,000 copies

per week. Today, the audited circulation is 65,500, making the 68-year-old paper the area's largest black weekly, the largest black newspaper in Missouri and one of the largest in the country. In relation to the size of St. Louis' African-American population, the paper's percentage of household penetration ranks at or near the top in the nation.

In addition to increased revenues and circulation, The St. Louis American has improved dramatically the quality of the news content. Earlier this summer, the American was named the best African-American newspaper in the nation by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in competition with 220 other papers.

The John B. Russwurm Award is named after the co-publisher of the first African-American newspaper in America. On March 16, 1827, Russwurm and Samuel E. Cornish began publishing Freedom's Journal, whose goal was to "arrest the progress of prejudice and to shield ourselves against its consequent evils."

This year was the first time any newspaper in Missouri had received the Russwurm award. In the finals, the American topped the Baltimore Afro-American and the Los Angeles Sentinel.

Suggs says, "(The Russwurm) is a premier award and it has been a great boost for morale of the staff." Besides winning NNPA awards for general excellence and best paper, the American also won awards for writing, layout and design, special sections and advertising.

Another indication of the improved quality of the American has been the regularity with which it has either won or placed high in recent Missouri Press Association competitions which include all papers in Missouri. The American has 18 full-time employees.

Suggs' earlier interests didn't point to his becoming a newspaper publisher.

Born and raised in East Chicago, Ind., in a solid, 2-parent household, Suggs went to Indiana University where he received a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in dental surgery. He did his post-graduate work at Washington University and Homer G. Phillips Hospital. He was chief of oral surgery at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware before coming back to St. Louis.

"In 1961, I was completing my tour with the Air Force. I was offered a job at Washington University's dental school. When I arrived, the offer was rescinded because I was black," notes Suggs. He later was asked to join the faculty at Saint Louis University's dental school where he served as the school's first African-American associate clinical professor. During this period, Suggs also worked in anesthesia at various hospitals in St. Louis to supplement his income.

During his tenure as a part-time faculty member, Suggs became active in the civil rights movement during the 1960s and 1970s. In 1968, he served as St. Louis chairman of the Poor People's March in Washington.

"After my third child was born, I knew I had to have more money than the amount I was earning teaching and giving anesthesia, so I started my oral surgery practice on North Kingshighway. I'm still practicing part-time," says Suggs.

After his private practice became successful, Suggs was able to pursue his growing interest in serious art. "I slowly started acquiring pieces. Some time later, I had the opportunity to get into the business side of art," says Suggs.

As long-time president of the Alexander-Suggs Gallery of African Art based in St. Louis and New York City, he broadened his contacts in the art world. Later, as founder and chairman of the African Continuum, he helped bring non-commercial artistic endeavors to St. Louis. He also was a founding