

board member of the Center for African Art in New York City, now known as the Museum of African Art.

His involvement in the art world and the civil rights movement were an impetus for Suggs to buy The St. Louis American. "I got involved in the paper because of my interest in social change and my desire to have some influence on major public policy issues," Suggs says.

Now, Suggs feels he can help have a positive impact on the African-American community through involvement in major economic and infrastructure issues that affect the entire region. "It is much easier to make positive changes for African Americans in an economy that is growing. For instance, interest rates, trade policy and their effect on the economy have as much or more influence on the African-American community's well-being as do major social policies," says Suggs.

"That is why we are so interested in the RCGA's creation of the Greater St. Louis Economic Development Council and its commitment to create 100,000 new jobs. Transportation issues like airport expansion and MetroLink expansion are of great interest because of their potential economic benefits for the entire community." Suggs currently serves on RCGA's board of directors.

Suggs also is concerned with St. Louis' failure to give greater priority to the recruitment and nurturing of top-level, professional African Americans. The St. Louis region needs to be more proactive in encouraging and supporting minority business, he says.

"St. Louis has done, with a few notable expectations, a poor job of attracting well-prepared people—particularly entrepreneurs—who are now going to Atlanta, New York, Chicago, Houston or Los Angeles for opportunities. Although there has been some improvement in recent years, we still don't have our share of highly-motivated, talented African Americans and that is a big concern," he says. Minority entrepreneurship and business development are underutilized resources for this region.

What does the future hold for the American?

"Our strategic plan includes providing more comprehensive coverage of the black business community. A stronger black business community is a boon to St. Louis' economy. We also have expanded our working women's sections and we are developing a new minority health section in collaboration with some local African-American physicians that focuses on health education, behavior modification and health careers," says Suggs.

ARE OUR CHILDREN BETTER OFF TODAY THAN THEY WERE FOUR YEARS AGO?

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the American people understand the connection between the drug crisis and our Nation's most critical domestic problems. Drug use permeates and exacerbates virtually every social, health and economic problem facing this country.

Education is one area where we can see the devastation caused by increasing drug use. Drug use is the major contributor to poor academic performance and accounts for our Nation's staggering dropout rate of 25 percent.

For this President to call himself the education president, when we have witnessed across the board increase in drugs by school children under his watch, is at best disingenuous. Drug use erodes self-discipline, motivation and concentration, making it difficult for teachers to teach and for students to learn. Since Bill Clinton's election, marijuana use among young people has doubled.

Mr. Speaker, according to a report by the Partnership for a Drug Free America, the national dropout rate hovers at 25 percent, and the rate climbs to nearly 50 percent in New York City, Chicago and Detroit. The report states that the explanation for these shocking statistics is poor academic performance—caused or exacerbated by illegal drug use. And yet we have a President who tells America's young people that if he had to do over again he would inhale.

In research conducted among young male adults, 60 percent of those who had used illegal drugs by the age of 12 had also dropped out of school—with devastating consequences, for the users and for society. Drug use by 12-year-olds has skyrocketed under President Clinton's term. Dropouts are twice as likely as are high school graduates to live in poverty. A strong correlation also exists between educational failure and crime. In New York City, for example, a staggering 90 percent of the inmates of the city's prisons are former dropouts.

Illegal drug use has escalated dramatically during President Clinton's term of office. Today, one in three high school students are using illegal drugs and one in four are dropping out of school. The total lack of Presidential leadership concerning teen drug use will have lasting and devastating consequences on the educational process in the United States.

President Clinton's decision to place our country's drug problem on a back burner has reduced our children's chances of obtaining the education they need. In the America I know and love, people care more about their children than about themselves. Isn't it time for us to ask if our children and grandchildren are better off today than they were 4 years ago?

KILDEE HONORS MARCANTONIO MOROLLA

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipient of the 1996 Golden Door Award, Marcantonio "Tony" Morolla. Mr. Morolla will receive the award at the annual dinner meeting of the International Institute of Flint on Tuesday, October 8.

The International Institute of Flint presents this award annually to a foreign-born citizen who has substantially improved life in the Flint community.

Tony was born in Triggiano, Bari in southern Italy. He immigrated to the United States with his parents, Girolamo and Antonia Morolla, and his two sisters in 1955. The family struggled during their early years in the United States. The automotive industry was in a downturn and layoffs at the automobile plants were frequent. During these years Girolamo

often thought about leaving his job at the V-8 engine plant and moving his family back to Italy. The couple resolved to stay in the United States. They instilled their determination to thrive into their children.

Tony Morolla has lived his life as a testament to his parents' spirit. He completed 2 years of service in the U.S. Army. After obtaining his associate of arts degree he worked as a caseworker in the 7th District Congressional Office of then Congressman Donald Riegle. He continued his studies at the University of Michigan-Flint and received a bachelor of arts degree in Urban Studies/Political Science in 1973. Tony worked during this time as the consortium manager for the Flint Area Chamber of Commerce. He continued his public service career as the associate director of the YMCA outreach project. In 1974 the city of Flint employed him as a personnel technician. Two years later he was promoted to his present position as civil service director for the city of Flint. Tony was awarded a master's degree in public administration in 1990.

His commitment to the city of Flint extends beyond his professional career. The list of organizations he has volunteered for is long. It includes the Urban League of Flint, Holy Redeemer Church, Donovan-Mayotte School, Powers High School, St. Pius Church, American Society for Public Administration, YMCA, and the Optimists Club.

Two organizations in particular have benefited from Tony's expertise. He has served in the capacity of president for both the Sons of Italy and the International Institute of Flint. He was instrumental in reactivating the State Lodge for the Sons of Italy and has devoted numerous hours in promoting the International Institute of Flint's mission for greater global understanding.

Recognizing that education is a stepping stone to a better life Tony shares his knowledge with the next generation by teaching courses at the University of Michigan-Flint and the Detroit College of Business. With his wife Hilary, he has three children, Marc, Heather, and Ashley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Congress to rise with me to honor this great American. My hometown of Flint has benefited from the contributions of Tony Morolla. We are a better community because of his indomitable spirit.

HONORING BRISTOL TENNESSEE TREE CITY USA BOARD

HON. JAMES H. QUILLEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bristol Tennessee Tree City USA [TCUSA] Board for their outstanding efforts in planting over 1 million trees in the city of Bristol which is located in the First District of Tennessee. The individual responsible for the success of this project is Donald H. Ellis, D.D.S.

Seven years ago, Dr. Ellis embarked on an ambitious goal. With the help of thousands of Tennessee volunteers, Dr. Ellis began working to plant 1 million trees in Bristol before the Tennessee bicentennial in 1996. At that rate, 22 trees would be planted for every citizen living in Bristol.