

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.

I'm pleased to announce that as of September 6, 1996, Dr. Ellis and the city of Bristol have achieved this goal and more. In all, the citizens of Bristol have planted 1,003,402 trees since 1989, and I am so proud of their efforts.

Reforestation projects like this are important in helping to preserve our precious natural resources. In addition, planting over 1 million trees would not be possible without the help of true Tennessee volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, they call Tennessee the volunteer State, and in part, it is because of efforts like these. Once again, let me commend Dr. Donald H. Ellis, the Bristol Tennessee Tree City USA Board, and the city of Bristol for a job well done.

OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF H.R. 1855, THE ELIZABETH MORGAN BILL, IN H.R. 3675, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of Members who have opposed on constitutional law and international treaty grounds the attachment to the Transportation appropriations bill of H.R. 1855, a bill which strips the District of Columbia courts of jurisdiction over the child custody case Morgan versus Foretich. In addition, I must oppose the bill on home rule grounds.

This matter now comes on the floor enclosed in a conference report which cannot be amended. The Chair of the full Government Reform Committee and the Chair of the D.C. Subcommittee have obtained a waiver of the relevant point of order. They have thus cleared the way for a matter that I believe to be deeply unconstitutional and that badly transgresses all principles of self-government to come to the floor.

In 1987, Elizabeth Morgan was held in jail for 2 years because she would not reveal the whereabouts of a child she said she believed had been sexually abused. In substantially less time than she had served, release of such a person is usually allowed or required. I was not a Member of Congress at that time. Apparently, largely because of the length of the incarceration, an act of Congress freed Ms. Morgan. No one is incarcerated; nor does the present matter have anything else in common with that situation, as is clear from remarks of Members from both parties, the majority of whom have spoken against this unprecedented trespass into the unique and exclusive realm of the judiciary.

I believe that what has transpired here today, in any case, is a complete nullity that guarantees the continuation of an inflammatory domestic dispute that has made a mockery of the legal concept of the best interests of the child. The constitutional doubt surrounding this matter is so large that it does not merit unworthy precedent set in the House today.

The adoption of this bill also puts the Congress on a collision course with international law. The New Zealand court that has jurisdiction over the child holds the child's passport

and has ruled that she may not leave New Zealand. David Howman, a barrister, the guardian appointed by the family court in New Zealand, has written the counsel to the D.C. Subcommittee that, "I am directed by His Honour Judge Mahony that the enclosed statement is to be made available to you for the purpose of * * * fully and properly informing the Congressional Subcommittee dealing with bill H.R. 1855 of the position relating to Hillary/Ellen." The court says:

The Court has held [the child's] passport since 1990 when the question of her care and residence first came before the Court. There is also a condition on the custody order issued in 1990 that she not be taken from New Zealand without order of the Court. If and when it is appropriate for an application to be made to this Court for removal of that condition or return of the passport the application will be considered at that time.

Thus, if the Congress of the United States permits the child to return through H.R. 1855, it is almost certainly in violation of the Hague Convention as it relates to child custody.

The insult to the District, its residents, and its independent judiciary is no less serious. The home rule trespass is all the more serious because of the absolute and unflinching necessity for an independent judiciary at every level of Government. No principle of the Constitution was considered more fundamental by the framers. Imagine the chill this bill sends to the sitting judiciary in the Nation's capital. Now, not only the city council and the executive agencies of the District, but also the judiciary is fair game for imposition of a Member's views regarding his pet issues. No member would even think of attempting to intrude into the legitimate and exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in any other jurisdiction of the United States or the territories.

I am attaching the letter of the court appointed guardian and the statements of the New Zealand family court. I am also attaching a Legal Times article detailing further my position on this matter.

DAVID HOWMAN, BARRISTER,
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND,

September 18, 1996.

Mr. HOWARD A. DENIS,
Counsel, House of Representatives, Committee
on Government Reform and Oversight,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. DENIS: I was appointed by the Family Court in New Zealand to assist that Court in proceedings involving Hillary/Ellen Morgan. Principal Family Court Judge P.D. Mahony made that appointment late last year.

Subsequently the Family Court conducted a hearing to consider matters relating to the child. I have been asked to communicate with you on behalf of the Court as a result of the Court's decision. This communication is for the purpose of fully and properly informing the Congressional Subcommittee dealing with Bill H.R. 1855 of the position relating to Hillary/Ellen. I am directed by His Honour Judge Mahony that the enclosed statement is to be made available to you for that purpose.

Please could you write to confirm receipt and to confirm that the statement will be made available to your Congressional Subcommittee accordingly.

Yours sincerely

DAVID HOWMAN,
Barrister.

MORGAN VERSUS FORETICH

1. The New Zealand Family Court recently considered an application concerning the

child Hillary Foretich/Ellen Morgan in relation to Bill HR 1588. The Court had received this application in July 1995 for Ellen to give evidence live by video-link to the Congressional sub-committee from Christchurch, New Zealand. That application was declined in the interim and subsequently dismissed. There is no current or further application before the Court concerning Ellen and Bill HR 1588.

2. Whether or not that Bill is passed is not an issue for this Court and it is not the business of the Court to express any view about it.

3. The Court has made no ruling concerning Ellen's return to the United States.

The Court has held her passport since 1990 when the question of her care and residence first came before the Court. There is also a condition on the custody order issued in 1990 that she not be taken from New Zealand without order of the Court. If and when it is appropriate for an application to be made to this Court for removal of that condition or return of the passport the application will be considered at that time.

4. In all issues affecting children in relation to their care, the overriding duty of the New Zealand Family Court is to treat the welfare of the child as the first and paramount consideration. A primary consideration in this case is the protection of privacy of the child. Proceedings before the New Zealand Family Court are held in private and there are statutory restrictions on reporting of cases heard by the Court, again directed at protecting the privacy of children.

It is the wish of this Court that those who have an official interest in relation to one or other aspect of Ellen's case, exercise care and restraint in order to preserve her privacy.

[From the Legal Times, Mar. 14, 1996]

CUSTODY SAGA'S LATEST TWIST—BID TO AID
MORGAN HITS HOME-RULE SNAG

(By Jonathan Groner)

Over the last 11 years, the Elizabeth Morgan custody case has touched on everything from feminism and fathers' rights to the reach of courts' contempt powers. Now, thanks to D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, there's a new, and unlikely wrinkle: D.C. home rule.

In January, four U.S. representatives—including three from the D.C. suburbs—introduced legislation seeking to quash the D.C. courts' jurisdiction over Morgan's protracted battle with her ex-husband for custody of their daughter. The bill would allow Morgan and her daughter Hilary, 13, to return to the United States from New Zealand, secure from any orders of the D.C. Superior Court.

But Delegate Norton's objections have begun to stall the bill, which had earlier seemed to be on the fast track to approval in both houses of Congress.

"I looked deeply at the bill," Norton says, alluding to what she views as its unqualified assault on the independence of the District's local courts. "There is far more trouble in it than I had thought. What I learned is absolutely startling."

The legislation is intended to help Morgan, 48, who spent 25 months in D.C. jail in the 1980s on contempt charges in the highly publicized case. Asserting that her ex-husband Eric Foretich, 53, had sexually abused the girl, she refused to permit his visitations and sent the child out of the country. Foretich denies the charges.

Morgan, who was then a D.C. plastic surgeon was released in 1989 by an act of Congress and in 1990 joined Hilary in New Zealand.

Elizabeth Morgan and her daughter, who now prefers to be called Ellen, have both declared recently that they would like to return to the United States and be reunited with the rest of their family.