

newspaper headquarters at 9 Stowe Street in Waterbury. He was also Vermont's Collector of Customs, an active post during Prohibition and a job that brought him frequently to St. Albans. In 1929, Whitehill heard Vermont's first commercial radio station, WDQM, there, and, reasoning that "more people can hear than can read," he returned to his newspaper to proclaim: "We need a radio station." "Radio was big city . . . worldly stuff," writes Squier, who chronicled the birth of the station in an unpublished history of WDEV. On July 16, 1931, the dulcet tones of Miss Kate Lyons of Waterbury Center singing "The Rose in the Garden" were sent over the airwaves, marking the station's official launch. The antenna was a copper wire strung from the newspaper office to a nearby funeral parlor.

It was a glorious venture, an opportunity, as U.S. Senator Warren R. Austin put it, "to sell a cow or an idea, quickly to a great number of people." The engineer for that first broadcast was 28-year-old Lloyd Squier, the son of the Whitehills' housekeeper. The young Squier (now known as "The Old Squier" and frequently heard on the station via old recordings) soon moved up to program director responsible for an entire hour of airtime a day. Fred Somers & Sons Hardware (still on Main Street in Montpelier) was an early sponsor.

Within a year, the station was broadcasting local sports, legislative hearings and other events of note. By 1936, the WDEV offices were a "mini-media Mecca" according to Ken Squier, complete with Western Union, New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., the radio station and the newspapers all under the same roof. "Because of radio, people can live among the most beautiful hills on earth, our own Vermont hills, and yet in an instant feel the pulse of world affairs by simply turning a switch," said then-Lieutenant Governor George Aiken in dedicating a new tower and transmitter that year.

Nowadays, what makes WDEV stand out is not that it brings us world news, but that—unlike the huge networks of radio stations fed formatted shows from a remote central location—it brings us the local happenings. The staff, on any given day, might be broadcasting from a State House hearing, the opening of the Farm Show or a county fair, a race at Thunder Road (which Ken Squier co-owns), a high school hockey game, a ribbon-cutting at a local lumber store or from a phone booth in downtown Montpelier, as Michaels did during the flood of 1992. (Michael's phoned-in report—replete with operator's request for additional coins—aired on the morning of the flood when the rising waters prevented him from getting through the city). Events like the flood, in fact, underscore the station's importance; Squier enlisted every employee—from the news staff to the sales reps—as reporters that day. The payoff came when then-Governor Howard Dean, asked at a press conference how he was keeping abreast of flood news, answered that he had been listening to WDEV.

Another of the station's strengths is the number of unforgettable radio personalities who have taken on larger-than-life characteristics in listeners' minds: Buster the Wonder Dog (Squier's own border collie); the station's country band, the Radio Rangers; Farmer Dave; the Old Squier; Ma Ferguson; Glen Plaid; Seymour Clearly and Spike the Cat. Past and current broadcasters—the late "Cousin Harold" Grout (who hosted "The Trading Post" for at least 30 years), the late Rusty Parker (who suffered a fatal heart attack in 1982 while broadcasting the morning news) and many more—seem like old friends to regular listeners.

In addition to sports of local interest—70 local high school basketball and hockey

games, Norwich University hockey, local motor sports events, Red Sox games and Mountaineers baseball—WDEV has pioneered "sporting events" that have become community institutions: the Winter Croquet Tournament, Opening Day at the ABCD Deer Camp, Opening Day at Perch Camp (an ice-fishing extravaganza), the State Agency of Transportation Snow Plow Championships and the Joe's Pond Ice Out competition, to name a few.

There is no doubt in this era of corporately owned radio stations that a locally owned station like WDEV and its Radio Vermont affiliates (WLVB-FM in Morrisville, a country station, and WCVT-FM, a classical music station in Stowe) are anomalies.

An analogy can be made, in fact, between the physical landscape and the aural landscape of Vermont. Think of corporate-owned stations—what Mark Johnson calls "electronic jukeboxes"—as sprawl. Public radio is analogous to state parks and land in conservation trusts. WDEV is analogous to the working landscape. Like tractors and manure pits, it's not always pretty. But it's real. And it's distinctive.

"It's a station that understands the community and understands what the real issues are," says Congressman Sanders. He has held hearings on the recent trends in communication law that enable large media conglomerates to own large numbers of stations. "Local ownership of media is increasingly important and increasingly rare," he said in a telephone interview. "When it goes, something valuable is lost."

Loyal listeners would say that "something" is a piece of Vermont.

HONORING GREGORY MCCARTHY'S SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, when I began serving on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the District of Columbia in January of 2001, my knowledge of the city's relationship with Congress was limited to someone who had lived here for only a few years. I quickly learned, however, not only the workings of the committee, but also the unique relationship between the District of Columbia and the Congress. One of the first people who helped me learn of this relationship and how to best serve the District was the energetic, dedicated chief advocate for DC Mayor Anthony Williams, Mr. Gregory McCarthy.

Behind all of the big ideas, the hours of debate and the finely cut deals, there is the staff. The staff must work the long hours to merge the big ideas and the little details into policy and legislation that achieves the goals set forth by their boss. Gregory McCarthy was an exemplary staffer who did all of this and more. Gregory has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Nation's Capital to create policy that benefited the city, met the needs of the elected officials of the District of Columbia, and satisfied the oversight function of the Congress. While working in the Mayor's Office, he helped build the credibility of the city, from the Halls of Congress, to the many visitors to the capital city, to the bond rating agencies. And all the while, Gregory served as the best source for a history lesson on the District, the current sta-

tus of a program, and the gauge of the Mayor on any issue that any member of the DC Appropriations Subcommittee could ask for.

Gregory McCarthy exemplifies the public service that fuels a government which serves the people. It is this type of public service that benefits students in the District of Columbia especially. Through Gregory's hard work, he navigated the strong and varying positions of Members of Congress and local officials in order to create the first federally sponsored, private school voucher program. While I have been a tough critic of the program, I have always said that Gregory and the city represented the District's constituents well by seeking more school options, and through their tireless discussion and debate came a program that supports traditional public schools and public charter schools, as well as private school scholarships. Gregory's efforts to improve education for District residents have not been limited to elementary and secondary alternatives. Similarly, he has worked to authorize and fund college grants for more than 8,000 DC residents so that those who wish to pursue a degree of higher education may see their dreams become a reality.

Gregory McCarthy shepherded these and numerous other programs through a frequently arduous District of Columbia appropriations process. The residents of the District have benefited greatly from his years of public service. When the year 2006 draws to an end, a new mayor will be elected and a new staff of dedicated public servants will work to improve this great city. As this new crew weaves their way through charted and uncharted territories, they will build on the positive relationships that Mayor Williams, Gregory McCarthy, and other members of the Mayor's staff have worked so hard to create. As Mr. McCarthy leaves the District of Columbia government for his next challenge, I offer him my congratulations and best wishes. From my own experience in working with him, I know that Gregory will succeed in whatever he pursues next.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEW YORK YMCAS

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the excellent work New York YMCAs are doing to build healthier communities. They are taking important steps to address health problems, such as obesity, smoking, and physical inactivity, by participating in the Pioneering Healthier Communities Project, Gulick Project, YMCA Healthy Kids Day, and Steps to a HealthierUS partnership. These projects are part of the initiative, YMCA Activate America, whose goal is to promote healthy living among millions of Americans.

The Pioneering Healthier Communities Project—a partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—brings leaders together to promote cultural and environmental changes in neighborhoods supportive of healthy lifestyles. Each year YMCAs are selected to convene teams of representatives from the government and public health and private sectors to improve healthy living. This year, the YMCAs of Rye and Greater Rochester were selected and convened teams, resulting in creative plans to help youngsters. For example, the Rye YMCA implemented the Fitkids Program to increase healthy menu choices and promote physical activity and healthy eating in four school systems. The YMCA of Greater Rochester introduced the Coordinated Approach to Child Health, CATCH, Program, which promotes physical activity and healthy food choices and prevents tobacco use in children, as well as the Family Cooks Program, which teaches children using a hands-on approach to nutritious cooking.

In addition, YMCAs in greater New York and greater Rochester are participating in the Gulick Project—an initiative that is dramatically improving the way they work with individuals and families to support healthy living. Through the Gulick Project, YMCAs in New York and in other States are enhancing their programs, facilities, and staff to effectively meet the needs of those who want to be active and healthy but continuously stop and start the process. Cutting-edge work at four YMCA branches in Prospect Park, Cross Island, Long Island city and West Side, as well as at other Gulick YMCAs in the Nation, is leading to the development of best practices.

Moreover, YMCAs in New York are actively involved in YMCA Healthy Kids Day, a grassroots event that encourages children and families to adopt and uphold behaviors that support healthy living through fun and engaging activities. Healthy Kids Day recognizes that there is local help for parents, from schools to public libraries and YMCAs. In 2006, more than a half million people will participate in Healthy Kids Day with events in more than 1,300 communities across the country.

New York YMCAs are also engaged in a variety of health initiatives through partnerships with the Steps to a HealthierUS, which offers grants to address health problems like obesity and asthma and risk factors like physical inactivity and poor nutrition. For instance, Broome County YMCA has partnered with the Steps program to develop Mission Meltaway, an 8-week program that educates participants on ways to control weight. This partnership has also established nutrition and physical activity policies for all YMCA afterschool programs. Similarly, the Chautauqua County YMCA has joined with the Steps program to create a wellness resource center and expand a

weight loss management program, among other things. Through the Steps program, the Rockland County YMCA is improving nutritious offerings at snack time in child care programs called “healthy snack Wednesdays.” The Watertown Family YMCA has teamed up with the Steps program to implement Kids NutriFit, a project that will increase physical activity in children ages 5 to 12 by engaging them in traditional play and teaching them about healthy snacking.

Many health problems are linked to habits common in American lifestyles, including overeating, underexercising, and poor diets. YMCAs in New York and their community partners are vigorously promoting healthy lifestyle choices and behaviors through innovative programs. I applaud their hard work and dedication to build healthy families and communities in New York and look forward to continuing to work with them.

As an advocate for strong and healthy children and families, I will continue to fight for increased funding for programs that promote access to healthy food and nutrition education in our schools and communities. Specifically, I have supported Farm-To-Cafeteria programs, which promote using locally grown produce in school cafeterias through community grants, and the USDA Team Nutrition program, which funds coordinated efforts between Federal, State and local entities to offer nutrition education to children. Through my own Farm-to-Fork initiative, I also have been working to get local New York State produce in schools, colleges, and universities. Healthy food options in school cafeterias teach kids about good nutrition and the importance of agriculture, as well as support local farms by keeping food dollars within the community.

Obesity, which has doubled in children and tripled in adolescents over the last two decades, is another serious health issue I am committed to addressing. Last year, I reintroduced the Improved Nutrition and Physical Activity Act, IMPACT Act, that awards grants to train primary care physicians and other health professionals in identifying, treating, and preventing obesity and eating disorders and allows States to use preventive health and health services block grants for activities and community education programs targeting obesity and eating disorders. This bill also promotes funding programs that encourage healthy eating and physical activity and collecting and analyzing data to determine the fitness levels and energy expenditures of children.

I have used nonlegislative avenues to address obesity and eating disorders as well. I wrote an article in the New York Daily News last summer highlighting long-term physical and emotional problems that can result from childhood obesity, such as cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, can-

cer, and depression, not to mention low self-esteem, academic problems, and discrimination. I have urged making childhood obesity a real priority for families, schools, government and businesses and outlined steps to do this, including educating parents and children about the importance of a healthy lifestyle, restoring physical education programs during and after school hours, and enlisting health care professionals to join the antiobesity campaign. Working with the Eating Disorders Coalition, I sponsored a congressional briefing called Schools, Students, Obesity and Eating Disorders to raise awareness of obesity, eating disorders, and physical activity in school-age youth.

I am dedicated to promoting safe and fit lifestyles in our children and to fighting for healthier and stronger communities. Together we can combat the health problems afflicting our youth today and create a better, more promising future. I commend the exemplary efforts of New York YMCAs as they contribute to this mission on many fronts.●

TRIBUTE TO JANET ALTMAN SPRAGENS

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, on February 19, 2006, our Nation lost a great lawyer, educator, advocate, and public servant. Janet Altman Spragens was a lifelong resident of Washington, DC, and a professor at American University's Washington College of Law for 33 years.

I met Janet when she was a young graduate student at Northwestern University and taught social studies at my alma mater, Maine South High School in Park Ridge, IL. She was a Wellesley graduate, and as I was making choices about where I would go to college, she urged me to consider Wellesley. I am grateful to Janet for helping me make that important decision in my life.

Janet went on to law school and developed an expertise in tax law. She used that expertise to benefit our Nation's underserved taxpayers by advocating for them in Congress and, in 1990, founding the Federal Tax Clinic. The clinic continues to operate today and the American Bar Association's Tax Section called it one of the earliest and most successful low-income taxpayer clinics in the country.

Janet Altman Spragens made a difference in the lives of many Americans who never will have the pleasure and privilege of knowing her. I join her family and friends in mourning her loss and ask that her obituary in the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 22, 2006]

JANET SPRAGENS, 62; LAW PROFESSOR SET UP TAX CLINIC TO AID POOR

(By Joe Holley)

Janet R. Spragens, 62, a tax professor at American University's Washington College of Law and the founder of the nation's first tax clinic for low-income taxpayers, died Feb. 19 of cancer at her home in the District.