

Monsignor Bourke has held numerous positions within the Diocese of Savannah during his tenure of service. He was named a Domestic Prelate on March 20, 1959 and Prothonotary Apostolic on October 11, 1966. He has been associated with the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women since its introduction to the diocese in 1938, serving as parish, deanery and diocesan moderator. At present he is the Honorary Diocesan Moderator. From the time of his arrival in Savannah in September, 1936, he has been closely identified with the Irish element. While Irish to the backbone, he is proud to have been for fifty years a citizen of the United States of America. He has lived in Georgia since 1934, and over thirty-three of those years in Savannah. He has participated in nearly every parade since his return to Savannah in 1970. He thanks God that he is a Savannahian and in his letter to the citizens of Savannah upon his selection as Grand Marshal he wrote the following words:

"We of Irish birth or lineage honor this day in the memory of St. Patrick who brought the Catholic faith to Ireland so long ago." We honor our forebears who have, in spite of centuries long persecutions, remained faithful to the teachings of St. Patrick. We renew our allegiance to these United States of America, where our people sought and found a harbor of refuge, a land, "Where rich and poor stand equal in the light of freedom's day."

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY TODD  
WILLIAMS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 1997*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished young man, Anthony Todd Williams, for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. Anthony is a member of the Boy Scout Troop 550. He will receive this award at an Eagle Scout court of honor on Sunday, March 16 at St. Maria Goretti Church Hall, located in Dyer, IN.

An elite group, comprising only 2.5 percent of all Boy Scouts, attains the Eagle Scout ranking, which is the highest of seven rankings in the Boy Scouts organization. In order to become an Eagle Scout, a Scout must complete the following three tasks: earn 21 merit badges; complete a service project; and demonstrate strong leadership skills within the troop.

Anthony, a student at Lake Central High School, made a turtle island in a community pond for his service project. Anthony has also helped to coordinate various troop outings, and he attended Boy Scout camp for 4 years. In addition Anthony attended the National Scout Preserve in Philmont, NM, which is a high adventure camp with a rugged terrain. Anthony currently has plans to attend the Sea Base Scuba High Adventure Camp in August of this year.

The rank of Eagle Scout always has carried with it special significance—and not only within Scouting. Eagle Scouts are recognized as individuals with great talent and promise as they enter institutions of higher education, the work force, or engage in community service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Anthony Todd Williams for his commend-

able achievement. His parents, Kim and Richard Williams, can be proud of their son because it takes a great deal of tenacity and devotion to achieve such an illustrious ranking. This young man has a promising future ahead of him, which will undoubtedly include improving the quality of life in Indiana's First Congressional District.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL  
RETREAT

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 1997*

Mr. GRINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, at our bipartisan congressional retreat this past weekend, historian David McCullough shared a view of the legislative process which was idealistic, practical, and filled with historic insights. He reminded us that this country was founded by practical idealists who understood both the frustrations of traditional political and legislative life and yet who were able to focus again and again on the idealistic long-term needs of America. I believe every citizen would profit from reading Mr. McCullough's speech. I submit it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL RETREAT

(By David McCullough)

Well, Amo, you've taken my breath away and your invitation to speak here is as high a tribute as I've ever received. I feel greatly honored but also a strong sense of humility. And I hope it won't seem presumptuous if I—in what I say today—appear to know your job. I don't. If I can help you in what I say, if I can help the country, then I will be very deeply appreciative of the chance to be here.

Your speaker welcomed you to Pennsylvania. I do so too as a Pennsylvanian, by birth and by education and as one who loves this state. There is more history here than almost anywhere else in our country. Our most important, our most sacred historic site—Independence Hall—is less than 100 miles from where we sit, as the crow flies. And if you come to Pennsylvania, you can always learn something, at whatever stage in life.

Last year, Rosalee and I came back to Philadelphia. We pulled up in front of the hotel in a big, shiny, rented car and the doorman, a handsome fellow in full regalia, opened the door for Rosalee. I popped the button for the trunk and I could see him getting the luggage out. I got out and walked around the back of the car and he looked up and said: "Well, Mr. McCullough, welcome to Philadelphia; it is wonderful to have you here." And I thought, "I wonder if he knows me because of my books or because of the work I do on public television?" And so I said, "If you don't mind, I'd like to know how you know who I am?" And he said, "the tag on your suitcase."

You can't but help learn a great deal in this session and as Speaker Gingrich said, this event is unprecedented in the long history of the U.S. Congress. A gathering like this never happened before. And how wonderful that your children are here—the next generation—some of whom may also be serving in Congress. We have the future with us too. And we have the past.

Now many people think of the past as something far behind, in back of us. It is also possible to think of it as in front of us, in the sense that we're going down a path that others have trod before, and some very great people; we are in their footsteps. And it is in

that spirit that much of what I have to say will be said. I want to talk about history; I want to talk about purpose, and because there's an old writer's adage, "Don't tell me, show me." I want to conclude by showing you.

"We live my dear soul in an age of trial," he wrote, in a letter to his wife. In the seclusion of his diary he wrote, "I wander alone and ponder. I muse, I mope, I ruminate." He was a new Congressman and he was about to set off for his first session in Congress. John Adams, heading for his very first Congress—the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774—and he was very disturbed, very worried.

"We have not men fit for the times," he wrote, "we are deficient in genius, education, in travel, fortune, in everything. I feel unutterable anxiety." The next year when he returned for the second Continental Congress he found that the whole atmosphere had changed. This was after Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. This was a time of pressing need and America, he decided, was a great, "unwieldy body."

"Its progress must be slow, it is like a large fleet sailing under convoy, the fleetest of sailors must wait for the dullest and the lowest. Every man in the Congress is a great man," he wrote, "and therein is the problem—an orator, a critic, a statesman, and therefore every man upon every question must show his oratory, his criticism, and his political abilities." In 1776, in the winter—in the dead of winter—with the temperature down in the 20s, John Adams set off again from Braintree on horseback to ride 300 miles. Nothing unusual then; we think of communications and transportation as two different subjects. In the 18th century, transportation and communication were the same. Nothing could be communicated any faster than somebody on a horse.

He arrived back in Philadelphia—this is early in 1776, and bear in mind this was the year of the Declaration of Independence—and he wrote: "There are deep jealousies. Ill-natured observations and incriminations take the place of reason and argument." Inadequate people, contention, sour moods, and from his wife, Abigail, John Adams received a letter in which she said: "You cannot be I know, nor do I wish to see you, an inactive spectator." She wants him to be there for all it is costing her, for all the difficulties she is having, caring for the family and running the farm. And then she adds, "We have too many high-sounding words and too few actions that correspond with them."

1776—History. History is a source of strength. History teaches us that there is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. We all know that. We all know the people who helped. Teachers, parents, those who set us on the right track, those who gave us a pat on the back, and when need be, those who have rapped our knuckles.

History teaches us that sooner is not necessarily better; that the whole is often equal to much more than the parts; and what we don't know can often hurt us deeply. If you want to build for the future, you must have a sense of past. We can't know where we're going if we don't know where we've been and where we've come from and how we got to be where we are. A very wise historian, who was also the Librarian of Congress—Daniel Boorstin—said that to try to create the future without some knowledge of the past is like trying to plant cut flowers.

History is an aid to navigation in troubled times; history is an antidote to self-pity and to self-importance. And history teaches that when we unite in a grand purpose there is almost nothing we cannot do.

Don't ever forget the great history of your institution—your all-important institution.