

FRANK HARDEN CELEBRATES 50
YEARS AT WMAL RADIO**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, one of the nation's capital area's most popular morning radio personalities recently reached a milestone in broadcasting at WMAL-AM 630. Frank Harden, now co-host of the "Harden, Brant and Parks" morning show, celebrated his 40th anniversary with WMAL on December 24, 1997.

In announcing that momentous occasion, WMAL also said that Frank Harden has renewed his contract for another three years and will continue to be heard on WMAL on a limited basis while spending some well-deserved leisure time at his homes in Sweden and Maryland. That's good news for the thousands of listeners, including presidents and members of Congress, who have spent their mornings with Frank Harden for several decades.

Many will recall the morning team of Frank Harden and Jackson Weaver. In 1959, Frank Harden auditioned with his late partner Jackson Weaver for the WMAL-AM morning team position. They won the affections of management and more importantly, Washington area listeners, and what began as a 13-week trial contract became the longest running two-man program in the history of radio.

I had the pleasure of working with Harden and Weaver in the early 1980's, soon after I came to Congress. Faced with the closure of the popular Turkey Run Farm Park in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia because of budget cutbacks, people in the district mobilized to save Turkey Run. We went on the air with Harden and Weaver, who helped spur the community on with their daily reports on the importance of the park to school children in the area. And when Harden and Weaver spoke, folks listened. Needless to say, Turkey Run Farm was saved and remains open today.

After the passing of Jackson Weaver in 1992, Harden was paired with sportscaster Tim Brant, and later former airborne reporter Andy Parks. The Harden, Brant and Parks brand of friendly humor, helpful information and wit has been waking up Northern Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland listeners for over five years now.

Frank Harden, a native of Macon, Georgia, began his radio career at WSAV in Savannah. Prior to joining WMAL's staff on December 24, 1947, Harden worked in Atlanta and Denver, and as an announcer for network radio shows including "The Lone Ranger" and "The Edward P. Morgan Show."

During his years with WMAL, Frank Harden has received awards such as the March of Dimes A.I.R. Lifetime Achievement Award, performed community involvement that is without equal, raised millions of dollars for Children's Hospital, made thousands upon thousands of announcements and personal appearances for community, civic, and church events, and sent many thoughtful, personal wishes to his faithful listeners. The "Harden and Weaver" program enjoyed ratings successes like no other morning drive-time show, and "Harden, Brant and Parks" consistently ranks near the top among morning listeners.

Said WMAL President and General Manager Tom Bresnahan, upon the occasion of Frank Harden's 50th anniversary at the station, "We're thrilled to have Frank as part of the WMAL family. He's a class act!"

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Frank Harden is a class act. We offer our congratulations to him with our best wishes and hope that we will continue to hear his voice gracing the Washington airwaves for many more years to come.

IN HONOR OF JAMES FARMER

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, six weeks ago, one of the truly great men of our times received the recognition and honor he deserves for his lifetime of dedication to and leadership of the civil rights movement. James Farmer, Jr., who was born and raised in my hometown of Marshall, Texas, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest civilian honor in our country.

Mr. Farmer is one of the giants of the American civil rights movement and a true American hero. He founded the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a group that became famous for its nonviolent sit-ins and freedom rides. He is the last of the "Big Four" civil rights leaders of the 1960's, which included Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, and Whitney Young of the National Urban League. Mr. Farmer was one of the men President Lyndon Baines Johnson consulted concerning the language of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Mr. Farmer is a man who dedicated his life to improving America for present and future generations. He fought to open the doors of justice and opportunity to all Americans, regardless of the color of their skin. Together as a nation we opened those doors, and James Farmer has continued to lead the fight to see that we do not retreat.

Yes, Mr. Farmer is a fighter, but he trained himself and his followers in the principles of direct action through nonviolence. He taught us that it is possible to work toward and achieve meaningful progress and change through a combination of education, fierce determination, and strong faith. James Farmer and Dr. Martin Luther King put their vision to work in America, and although we still have room to improve, we are a changed people and a changed nation because of their efforts.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom was designed for "persons the President deems to have made especially meritorious contributions to the security of national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors." I nominated Mr. Farmer for the Presidential Medal of Freedom and recommended him to the President because he has earned this honor and because I believe he deserves a formal expression of our appreciation and gratitude. I am pleased the President bestowed his highest award on Mr. Farmer, and I am honored to have played a small role in that process.

Friends, we are better Americans thanks to James Farmer, and we are also better human beings.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS BASKETBALL TEAM**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the University of Memphis Tigers ladies basketball team. The Lady Tigers, under the leadership of Joye Lee-McNelis, captured their Conference USA regular season title by putting together a 14-2 conference record. Last week, the Lady Tigers traveled to Louisville, Kentucky for the Conference USA post-season tournament and won three consecutive games to capture that title as well. The Tigers put on quite a show, winning the final game in dramatic fashion over the host team in a game that was televised nationally by ESPN. The Men Tigers also had a great deal of success this year as they concluded the conference season 12-4 and also captured their division title. The women will be making their fourth consecutive NCAA tournament appearance. The men's title was their third regular season championship in the last four years.

After starting the season with a 4-4 mark, the Lady Tigers put together a long winning streak to become one of the nation's toughest teams the exciting play of LaTonya Johnson and Tamika Whitmore, combined with the terrific coaching of Lee-McNelis, have been the formula for success for these Tigers. As the popularity of women's basketball begins to soar, the commitment to success that this team has shown has helped to win over Memphis basketball fans. This was evident during the championship game as hundreds of fans roared in support of the Tigers after making the journey from Memphis to Louisville.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the accomplishments of the University of Memphis Tigers. We thank them for bringing championships to the city of Memphis and wish them the best of luck in postseason competition.

CONGRATULATING BEAUSOLEIL

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like for my colleagues to join me in congratulating BeauSoleil on capturing a Grammy Award for Best Traditional Folk Recording.

BeauSoleil's talented group featuring Michael Doucet, David Doucet, Jimmy Breaux, Al Tharp, Billy Ware, and Tommy Alesi have contributed greatly to the spread of Cajun music not only in my state of Louisiana but throughout the country and indeed the world. Since 1975, BeauSoleil has succeeded in preserving the authentic Cajun music that we are so proud of in Louisiana and in doing so, shared our rich history far beyond our famous bayous with others. I think a Los Angeles Times article put it best by stating that "even as BeauSoleil stretches the basic Cajun sound and pushes at musical boundaries, it never veers far from the crucial values of family, friendship and community that have kept the

Cajun people and culture alive for 400 years." It is only fitting that they now are honored by the Grammy's for such a profound work like "L'Amour ou la Folie (Love or Folly)" which embodies a diverse cultural blend of Cajun and Creole classics, blues, South Louisiana swamp-pop, New Orleans jazz, and Afro-Caribbean material. This prestigious award along with six prior Grammy nominations recognizes bandleader Michael Doucet's commitment to spreading the "joie de vivre" Louisianians find in our music while keeping the traditions of our culture alive for everyone to cherish.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker I am proud to add that BeauSoleil was not the only band to be nominated by the Grammys from my Congressional District. Mr. Jo-El Sonnier and the Hackberry Ramblers were among the elite musicians to receive this special honor as well. Mr. Jo-El Sonnier's "Cajun Pride" and the Hackberry Ramblers' "Deep Water" were both nominated for the Best Traditional Folk Recording. I am extremely proud of these nominees who have shared long, fruitful careers in the entertainment industry and extend my deepest appreciation for their celebrating the musical treasures indigenous to our state for so many years.

In conclusion, let me join with my fellow Louisianians in congratulating these talented musicians on their outstanding achievements as we are fortunate to have such great Ambassadors of our music and culture.

DESIGNATE D.C. CITY-WIDE EMPOWERMENT ZONE AND GIVE MAJOR TAX CUTS TO D.C. RESIDENTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Ms. NORTON. The economic package I introduce today is the missing piece for the revitalization of the District of Columbia. The new and improved District of Columbia Economic Recovery Act of 1998 (DCERA) proposes tax incentives for D.C. residents and businesses designed to stem the inexorable flight to middle income residents from the District, a phenomenon that has resisted the presence of a control board, a historic rescue package, and improvements in the city's financial condition.

The bill has two important goals. First, the DCERA affords benefits to the only group in the city that has received none—D.C. residents. Last year, the District government got a billion dollar rescue package that grows in value each year and D.C. businesses got billions in potential tax benefits that all agree are invaluable. D.C. residents are still waiting for tax benefits that can stem the mounting tide that is sweeping the middle income tax base from this city while we look the other way. Second, the bill makes city-wide the tax benefit package I won for the District last year in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

Let me turn first to needed remedies to correct unfair advantages to some and outright discrimination against others unintentionally incorporated into the package we recently won for D.C. businesses. Although I pleaded with Congress to make city-wide the benefits for D.C. businesses in the Taxpayer Relief Act passed last summer, Congress was unwilling

to absorb the small additional cost. These very valuable business tax benefits, including a \$3,000 tax credit for every D.C. resident employed and elimination of capital gains tax, were limited to certain levels of residential poverty. These neighborhood limitations have justifiably stirred objections and the unintended consequences I warned of are all too apparent. For example, the Willard Hotel can get \$3,000 off the \$15,000 it may pay to a cleaner or a bell hop, but the Hay Adams and the Washington Hilton, whose general manager will speak this morning, can not. Businesses in one section of a struggling commercial strip are included, but their mirror counterparts down the street are not, as one business owner who will speak here today can testify. High income university students with little personal income have brought Georgetown and Foggy Bottom businesses under the law, but businesses in struggling areas of Ward 5 do not qualify. These discriminatory effects litter the economic landscape city-wide.

This section of my bill would correct anomalies that give some businesses an unearned competitive advantage, forcing competition among our already depleted pool of businesses instead of between those in and outside of D.C. The solution is simple and fair; designate the District of Columbia an empowerment zone. This designation is sensible for three reasons. It would (1) erase indefensible distinctions that tear neighborhoods apart and help some D.C. businesses at the expense of others; (2) draw upon the criterion of poverty already in the law; and (3) assure the congressional intent of the existing package to make the city an exemplary capital is not undercut by the hit-and-miss effect of the recently passed D.C. tax package. The present law requires a 20% residential zone poverty rate for businesses to receive the tax benefits and a 10% poverty rate to qualify for capital gains tax elimination. Since the poverty rate for the District is 23%, it makes sense to use the city-wide poverty rate to designate the entire city an empowerment zone.

I want to move to the second major section of the bill. This is not the first time that I have introduced a tax cut package for residents, but the urgency has grown. Bills that represent a decided departure almost never pass except after several introductions, lots of hard work, and the building of momentum. In introducing a tax cut this year, I mean to indicate that I do not intend to give up until D.C. residents and those who might be attracted here are given a reason to live in this city. We need this provision because we lack what has saved other big cities from collapse: a state to funnel money back from fleeing taxpayers and the ability to tax commuters who work in the city. As a result of these twin deficits, the continuing population hemorrhage could find the recovery now in progress countermanded by a simultaneous exodus of the city's core middle income tax base. We are losing three times as many residents in the 1990s as we lost in the 1980s. Ominously, in the two years since 1995, even with a control board in place to stabilize the city, we lost nearly as many residents as we lost in the 1980s. This unchecked flight is virtually the worst among other cities today.

Yet the totals at the bottom line do not tell the real story of what the loss means to the city. Worse than the total loss is the income distribution of that loss. The people who are

leaving I call prime movers because they are in the prime income groups. They give communities their grassroots vitality, insist upon excellence in education for their children, prevent the deterioration of neighborhoods, and pay taxes adequate to fund city services. The prime movers are in the prime years of their earnings, with disposable income rising each year. Two-thirds of the prime movers are ages 25–44 and 50% of them earn \$50,000 or more. A hefty majority of the taxpayers in flight, or 63%, earn between \$35,000 and \$100,000. This income group are the people whom demographers mean when they use the words "middle class." The greatest flight, 38% is in the taxpaying core of this group between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Just below them at \$35,000–\$50,000 is the second largest group of prime movers. At only 3%, the least likely to leave are the poorest residents with income under \$15,000, who need the most services.

The major tax breaks my bill provides residents are simple. After affording sharp increases in the traditional standard deduction and personal exemption, a uniform rate of 15% will be applied progressively up the income scale to reduce present tax liability—from a 79% reduction to a 34% reduction, depending on income. The lower the income, the greater the tax reduction. The DCERA would leave 50% of D.C. residents off of the tax rolls altogether. The uniform rate would rescue the rest from bracket creep, and thus assure that income increases resulting from the tax cut are not then significantly taxed away.

Let me try to dispose of one canard. It is true, of course, that people don't leave one jurisdiction for another because of their federal income taxes, and they are not leaving D.C. primarily because of the onerous combination of federal and high local D.C. taxes. It does not follow, however, that a substantial federal tax reduction will not be an incentive to keep people here or bring some back. The feedback from residents indicates that today only a tax break makes a significant difference to prime movers. They see a tax break as an incentive that overcomes the many disincentives to stay in the District today, including schools, other services, and urban conditions.

The bill has important safeguards against artificially rapid property value increases and against gentrification. A list of these safeguards, all of them in previous versions of the bill, is attached as an addendum to this statement. An important new safeguard against gentrification is my recently enacted \$5,000 D.C. homebuyer credit. This credit already is allowing D.C. residents of modest means to become homeowners and to avoid exclusion as the market rises, as you will hear from one of our speakers today.

The District has less to work with than any American city: no lifesaving state to help as Maryland helps Baltimore and Virginia helps Richmond; no ability to tax commuters who use costly city services, as Philadelphia and New York do; and no clearance of state functions, such as welfare and mental health, among the costly functions that the President's revitalization package did not take. Above all, the District uniquely is denied the most fundamental of American rights—full representation by a Congress that extracts the same federal taxes as it does from those, who, unlike District residents, have full representation in the Congress and full democracy where they