

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