

TRIBUTE TO DR. IAN  
KIRKPATRICK

**HON. FRANK RIGGS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the distinguished career of Dr. Ian Kirkpatrick. On June 30, 1998, Dr. Kirkpatrick will be retiring from the Windsor Unified School District after 29 years of service to public education. During this time of service Dr. Kirkpatrick has had a tremendous positive impact as a social studies teacher, cross country, basketball and track coach, principal, and superintendent.

In 1993, Dr. Kirkpatrick took the reins as the first Superintendent of the newly formed Windsor Unified School District. As Superintendent, Dr. Kirkpatrick has seen the district grow from a K-8 district of 2,000 students to a district that now teaches 3,225 students, grades K-11. Through this growth there became a need for more school facilities. Working with the community, Dr. Kirkpatrick raised the money to build Windsor Middle School, a new kindergarten classroom, a multi-use building, and begin construction on the new Windsor High School which will be opening this Fall. Almost all of these projects were constructed while the State of California was in a budget crisis and many districts throughout the state were cutting back on classroom resources and facilities.

Civic duty appears to be something that has come natural to Dr. Kirkpatrick. Before entering the field of public education, he attended the Naval Officer Candidate School and became a Navy officer. He served four years as a destroyer officer and completed two tours of duty in Vietnam. After being discharged from active duty, he remained in the Naval Reserve until 1989, when he retired with the rank of Commander.

Throughout his career, Dr. Kirkpatrick has been supported by his wife, Diane and their two children, Ian and Deanna. Diane, an administrator with the Tamalpais High School District will also be retiring at the end of the year. The two plan to travel and spend time pursuing their hobbies, snow skiing and wind surfing.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of Dr. Ian Kirkpatrick, as an educator and community leader, should be held up as a model for others. For it is hard working and dedicated individuals like him who make up the backbone of this nation. His leadership will be missed by many, both inside and outside the school district.

HONORING ALVIN COWANS

**HON. BILL McCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a recent article from The Washingtonian that highlights the achievements of a constituent of mine, Alvin (A.C.) J. Cowans. I have had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Cowans in my office and it was a pleasant surprise to see such a glowing article in the magazine. I am submitting a copy of the article for my colleagues to review.

Not only was Mr. Cowans an All-SEC football player at my alma mater, the University of Florida, but he has played football in the NFL and is now the CEO of McCoy Federal Credit Union in Orlando, Florida. He serves the credit union industry as the Vice Chair of the National Association of Federal Credit Union's (NAFCU) Board of Directors. The members of the McCoy FCU and of NAFCU are fortunate to have Mr. Cowans working on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will take the time to read The Washingtonian article. It is a fine tribute to one of my constituents.

[From the Washingtonian, June 1998]

Alvin Cowans can reel off his high-school football honors—Northern Virginia Player of the Year, All Regional, All State—as though he won them yesterday.

He went on to play for the University of Florida, where he was All Southeastern Conference, then for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and finally for the Redskins. But after high school, it was never the same—never again was all the cheering just for him.

"I really thought I was all that," Cowans says of his Groveton days. Which meant he had a hard time adjusting to life at the University of Florida, where "everybody else was also player of this and All American that."

If he'd gone to Alexandria's T.C. Williams High School, the athletic powerhouse in whose district he technically lived, life might have been different. Sure, he would have played on a team that won more championships, a team where he would have been one of a constellation of stars. But then maybe, compared to all the athletes at T.C. Williams, he wouldn't have looked quite as appealing to all the colleges that came knocking.

It doesn't matter now. But Cowans—who also played basketball and ran track—is fairly sure that if he'd gone to the then-majority-black T.C. Williams, he'd never be as at ease as he is today, one of about two dozen African-Americans among the CEO's of the nation's 11,000 federal credit unions.

"Groveton was very diverse, but it had just a handful of black students," says Cowans, who went to all-black schools through sixth grade. "Being the big-shot athlete sort of shielded me from the racism, because they saw me more as an athlete than as a black male."

His star status helped him "learn how to adjust and cope with that environment and not carry a chip on my shoulder or be uncomfortable."

Cowans has lived in Orlando since 1978, when a former UF football player recruited him for a management-training program. He head McCoy Federal Credit Union, one of central Florida's largest.

His interest in finance goes back to high school, too.

"I always liked to have money, and I always worked to get it," says Cowans, who spent high-school summers hauling bricks and blocks and mud to build the Redskins' training camp at Dulles, where he got to practice some six years later.

"It felt great," he says of all the cheers from his family and friends when he played for the Redskins. It sounded a lot like Groveton.

SALUTING THE 1998 ELLIS ISLAND  
MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday May 9th four of our distinguished colleagues together with more than 130 other outstanding Americans were awarded the 1998 Ellis Island Medal of Honor at a gala ceremony on Ellis Island. The ceremony and the medals are sponsored by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, Inc. (NECO), the nation's largest ethnic organization, representing more than 5 million families and hundreds of organizations.

The Ellis Island Medals of Honor have been awarded in each of the past twelve years to those Americans who have made outstanding contributions to our nation's identity, while preserving the distinct values and heritage of their ancestors. This year I am especially proud to note that Reps. GARY ACKERMAN (Eastern Europe), CAROLYN MALONEY (English, Irish/French), ROBERT MENENDEZ (Cuban), and PATSY MINK (Japanese) were among the awardees.

I am proud to be a Medal recipient, as is President Clinton and five other United States Presidents. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is aptly named, for the island is a symbol of the diversity of our nation's people—a people whose genius, culture, artistry and thought have joined to form a single mosaic of many cultures and ancestral backgrounds. It is from this diversity that the United States is still a beacon of hope for so many and the greatest democracy the world has ever known.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a special tribute to the one man who is responsible for the Ellis Island Medals of Honor and someone who has dedicated his life to developing and strengthening bonds between people of all ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds, William Denis Fugazy. At this point in the RECORD, I wish to include the entire list of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients and congratulate each of them.

ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDS—1998  
MEDALISTS

Anthony S. Abbate, President & CEO, Interchange State Bank, Saddle Brook, NJ—Italian; Gary L. Ackerman, Congressman, United States House of Representatives, Bayside, NY—Eastern European; William H. Adkins, President & CEO, Palanker Chevrolet Inc. West Babylon, NY—African; Antigone Agris, Publisher, Hellenic Chronicle, Framingham, MA—Hellenic; Ace (Armando) Alaga, Publisher, Italian Tribune News, Newark, NJ—Italian; John B. Alfieri, Esq. Senior Partner, Alfieri, Frohman & Primoff, LLP, New York, NY—Italian; John A. Allison IV, Chairman & CEO, BB&T Corporation, Winston-Salem, NC—Scottish/Irish; John A. Amos, President & CEO, Halley's Comet Company, Califon, NJ—African; Ernie Anastos, News Anchor, UPN 9/WWOR-TV, Secaucus, NJ—Hellenic; Thomas V. Angott, Chairman, C.F. Burger Creamery, Detroit, MI—Italian; Michael S. Ansari, Chairman & CEO, MIC Industries, Inc., Reston, VA—Iranian; Norman R. Augustine, Chairman of the Board, retired, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Bethesda, MD—German; William J. Avery, Chairman & CEO, Crown, Cork & Seal Company, Inc., Philadelphia, PA—Irish/Welsch; Farhad Azima, Chairman, Aviation Leasing Group, Kansas City, MO—Persian;