

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have met these young adults and am confident of their abilities to lead America in the future. This select group of young leaders has the integrity and values needed to ensure a virtuous Colorado and United States in the next century.

A VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN—
RAYMOND R. "ANDY" GUEST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues a recent editorial from The Winchester Star which so eloquently speaks about a true "citizen-legislator," Raymond R. "Andy" Guest of Front Royal, who has announced his retirement as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly, where he served for nearly three decades.

I am proud to call Andy Guest my constituent and friend, and am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him in public service to so many of the constituents we share from the Shenandoah Valley. On behalf of those people of the Valley, I wish Andy and His wife, Mary Scott, all the best wherever his path now as "citizen" leads.

[From The Winchester Star, March 2, 1999]
VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN—GUEST PERSONIFIED
LEGISLATIVE TRADITION

It comes as no small surprise that when the time came for Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. to announce his retirement from the General Assembly he was "overwhelmed" by "the history, the tradition" that surrounds anyone in Virginia's State Capitol. But then, Andy Guest is not "anyone"; 28 years a man of the House, he was emblematic of that tradition the Old Dominion so admires in her lawmakers, that of "citizen-legislator."

"To continue that tradition was a great honor." Mr. Guest said Sunday, roughly 24 hours after announcing his intention to leave the House, and the people, he served for nearly three decades.

However, the tradition to which he stood heir goes deeper than ties to Virginia. In a real sense, he was to the manner born; his father, Raymond Sr., also served in the General Assembly and was U.S. ambassador to Ireland. Thus, as his wife, Mary Scott, succinctly said. "He was born to be a public servant."

And, as a public servant, he will be dearly missed, by his peers no less than his constituents. Among the men and women with whom he engaged in the legislative hurly-burly he will be remembered as the gentleman he is.

"Sometimes we use the word . . . a little too freely," said House Speaker Thomas W. Moss, D-Norfolk, with whom Guest often tangled, "but I've never known him to be anything but a gentleman."

Likewise, said state Sen. H. Russell Potts Jr., R-Winchester: "We have lost a good man. His integrity and character exude the class that typifies a Virginia gentleman. He leaves a void that will never be replaced."

That "void" is considerable, in that Mr. Guest's voice was one of clear common sense and consistent conservatism, particularly of the fiscal variety. In his last session, he raised words of concern about the manner in which the state treats its surplus revenue (see editorial above). He is worried, as are we, that these dollars will be used to "grow

the government," rather than as a tool to fund needed capital expenditures.

Such a concern was true to form. As a minority member of the legislature for most all his 28 years in the House—he was minority leader for six of them—Mr. Guest often found himself "chipping away" at the system in hopes that it would run better. Frequently, this took the form of legislation that bore witness to the needs of his constituents in the northern Valley. He relished in his efforts to make the bureaucracy respond to these needs and to "see things get done."

To be sure, Mr. Guest also will be remembered for his courage in combating lymphatic cancer while maintaining a watchful eye on the General Assembly's proceedings from his Richmond hospital bed. Thankfully, he says his decision to leave the House is not health-related, but simply predicated by a desire to attend to family and business interests and to, as they say, "smell the roses" a bit, perhaps while dove hunting and fly fishing, two particular loves.

His wife, Mary Scott, says that having Andy at home on more or less a regular basis will translate into more opportunities to enjoy the company of friends, sans the demands that politics brings.

"I'll be able to say . . . 'Let's have dinner on Friday or Saturday night and we won't have to talk politics,'" Mrs. Guest said.

Without a doubt, she knows her man far better than we, but we suspect that politics will never stray too far from the mind of Andy Guest. Citizen-legislators may retire, but when "tradition" is born in the blood, the passion seldom expires. Nor does the legacy, which, in this case, is considerable.

THE D.C. EQUALITY BEGINS AT
HOME EFFORTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the local Equality Begins at Home events here in the District of Columbia that will take place during the week of March 21–27, 1999. I will be at the Bipartisan Congressional Retreat in Hershey, Pennsylvania on Sunday, March 21, when the District of Columbia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) residents kick off a week of lobbying and conscience raising at Freedom Plaza.

These events, with an emphasis on local needs, are taking place throughout the United States, but no jurisdiction has experienced more bigotry associated with sexual orientation than the nation's capital. This prejudice, I am happy to say, does not come from the people of the District of Columbia, or their locally elected representatives, who have enacted the most progressive and far-reaching protections in the country. Residents of every background in the District feel particular anger when, in violation of all of the principles of self-government, Congress injects itself to enact measures at odds with principles of equality and anti-discrimination that the residents of this city hold especially dear.

Each year, under congressional attack, I am forced to defend the District's domestic partnership law, a very modest provision designed to afford relatives or partners who live in the same household the opportunity to qualify for health benefits at no additional expense to the

District government. Last year, I spent ten hours on the House floor defending the District's appropriation from anti-democratic attachments, more of them seeking to impose sexual orientation discrimination than any other type of attachment that was proposed and passed. We must keep these and other anti-gay provisions off this year's appropriation. The right to adopt children or to qualify for health insurance has everything to do with kids in need of homes or residents in need of health care, and nothing to do with the sexual orientation of our residents. The bigoted mischief done by Congress to the District in the name of homophobia has known no bounds. The city is now in court seeking to overturn the congressional attachment that prevents the release of the November ballot results determining whether District residents who are ill can use medically prescribed marijuana for medicinal purposes. Another amendment brimming with discrimination last year all but destroyed the District's successful needle exchange program, leaving this vital, life-saving program to a totally private group with little funding.

I very much appreciate the efforts of our dedicated and energetic LGBT community to educate Members concerning the injury done to individuals and the insult to self-government rendered by congressional anti-gay attachments. With Equality Begins at Home rallied to fight back, we will yet make the Congress understand that it must back off—back off bigotry against District residents whose sexual orientation differs from the majority, and back off the annual assault on the legislative prerogatives of the City Council.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this bigotry is not limited to anti-democratic legislation aimed at the LGBT community of the District. In the past year, this nation has been outraged at the inexplicable cruelty of the murders of two gay men in Alabama and Wyoming. These hate-inspired murders underscore the need to pass the Hate-Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) immediately. Another session of Congress must not go by without addressing both the crimes and the employment discrimination that emanate from sexual orientation. No other response is acceptable.

COMMEMORATING TEJANO MUSIC:
19TH ANNUAL TEJANO MUSIC
AWARDS CELEBRATION

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today that will recognize one of the unique sounds sweeping across the Nation today—Tejano music. All across America the sounds of tejano have become the music of choice. From deep in the heart of south Texas to the Great Plains, from the east coast to the west coast, the pulsating rhythms of a loud drumbeat, a bajo-sexto guitar and an ubiquitous accordion are taking over the Nation to the beat of Tejano.

During the last several years Tejano artists have captured a large percentage of the Latin music market and continue to rise in popularity. From the legendary Selena to the incomparable Little Joe the sweet sounds of