

Act of 1996. It will address the following issues: (1) the need to maximize the interest earning potential of all FCC spectrum auction bidders' deposits; and (2) lack of specific language authorizing TDF's participation in government-sponsored capitalization programs.

Specifically, this bill:

Directs the FCC to place all spectrum auction bidders' deposits in interest-bearing accounts; and

Provides explicit instructions that the TDF may participate in the SBA's SBIC program to assist it in generating additional capital.

Implementing these two items will effectuate my original intent as the author of the 1996 provision. The TDE provision was intended to maximize the availability of investment capital to entrepreneurs seeking to provide telecommunications services to underserved communities. These technical oversights are depriving the TDF of millions of dollars of additional revenue.

Despite numerous obstacles over the last two years, the TDF continues to remain operational. I am pleased to convey that TDF has reviewed over 300 telecommunications business proposals with a staff of less than five people, confined operational overhead expenses to 5.2 percent of its total budget, and recently announced funding for small business entrepreneurs who will provide telecommunications services to underserved communities. Remedying the technical deficiencies outlined in the previous paragraphs will ensure the continued viability of the TDF.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my House colleagues to join me in ensuring that the Telecommunications Development Fund is a viable entity in today's ever-evolving telecommunications frontier.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 200 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the parishioners of the St. George's Episcopal Church as they celebrate the 200th Anniversary of their church building on Sunday, November 21st. Located in Valley Lee in the Southern Maryland County of St. Mary's, St. George's has been serving the faithful since the reign of William and Mary some 360 years ago—hence it is also known as the William and Mary Parish.

Following the establishment of the Maryland Colony by Leonard Calvert in 1634, the settlement at St. Mary's began to grow with the establishment of St. George's Hundred, a piece of land across the St. Mary's River and west of the Capital settlement of St. Mary's City. Maryland is known as the birthplace of religious toleration in Colonial America and along with Catholic settlers and settlers of other faiths came followers of the Anglican church. Some of these colonists would establish the Poplar Hill Church—thought to have been built between 1638 and 1642 just 50 feet from the site of the present building.

Over the years, the William and Mary Parish would worship in several buildings. A second church is believed to have been built on the

existing site in 1692 and a third structure around 1760. In 1799, the existing structure was built and today we recognize this incredible 200 year journey.

Just as members of the Parish no doubt celebrated the dedication of their new building in 1799 on the verge of a new century, today we celebrate two hundred years of progress at Poplar Hill as we count down the remaining days to the new millennium.

The parishioners of St. George's have been witness to extraordinary events and their history bridges a time line of critical events in our Nation's history—from the fledgling colony of the 1600s, the rise of revolution in the 1700's, the Civil War and the abolition of slavery in the 1800's, and the transformation of St. Mary's County from its rural way of life to being the home of the world's premier and most advanced aviation testing facility with the establishment of Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

And through it all, St. George's Episcopal Parish has been a beacon of faith serving to enrich its parishioners with God's word and providing a firm foundation to do His work.

I commend St. George's Episcopal Church on the 200th Anniversary of their building and wish its parishioners all the best in the future.

HONORING JOSEPH GALLO FARMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Gallo Farms of Atwater for being named the 1999 Baker, Peterson & Franklin Ag Business Award. Joseph Gallo Farms is being honored on November 17, 1999 at the AgFRESNO Farm Equipment Exposition luncheon.

Joseph Gallo Farms (JGF), family-owned and operated by CEO and co-owner Michael Gallo was named the nation's largest dairy by Successful Farming in 1995. JGF was founded in 1946; they operate 12,000 acres of land, raising 25,000 head of cattle on five dairies and 2,500 acres of wine grapes, Joseph Gallo Farms also produces a wide array of Joseph Farms cheeses, which are sold in more than 20 states and in five countries internationally. JGF has played a significant role in cheese becoming the fastest-growing dairy product in California, now the second leading state in cheese production.

Joseph Gallo Farms is leading the way in its "Environmentally-Compatible Farming," finding land usage compromises to benefit both agriculture and the surrounding natural environment. Operating within the San Joaquin Valley Grasslands, one of the most critical wetland areas left in California, JGF seeks to protect the environment while still conducting its farming affairs. For these efforts, JGF received an environmental award from the Central Valley Joint Habitat in 1996. JGF has created its own internal Department of Environmental Affairs to ensure that all operations remain compatible with critical habitat values. With the consumer concern over the rBST/rBGH controversy, JGF made the unprecedented decision to stop using all artificial hormones on its dairy herd, becoming the first cheese producer nationwide to receive governmental approval

to label its premium cheese as have "No Artificial Hormones."

Mr. Speaker, the Ag Business Award is given to an agricultural organization whose achievements and impact have significantly contributed to the industry and the Center Valley; Joseph Gallo Farms is an excellent representation of this. I congratulate JGF for their accomplishments in the cheese and agriculture business. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Joseph Gallo Farms many more years of continued success.

CATHY HUGHES, FROM RAGS TO RICHES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, breaking the cycle of past racial discrimination has been a mission of African Americans across this country. Wishing for only an opportunity, great African Americans, in many fields and industries, have struggled to feed to this country and this world, the fruits of their talents and labor. In the process, many have tried and failed, but a few have beat the odds and have made a major impact. Perhaps one of the greatest examples of those who have crumbled the walls of bias and discrimination, is one of the Maryland 7th District's brightest stars. Through the storm of discrimination against African Americans and women entrepreneurs, Catherine Hughes would not be defeated. She flew to high heights.

Mrs. Hughes, the founder and chairwoman of Radio One, with her mind set on waking America to injustice, bigotry, and discrimination, has revolutionized the broadcasting industry from an African American point of view. Cathy Hughes had a dream—a dream to create an information-based radio program geared towards the African American community. With very humble beginnings at Howard University's radio station, WHUR-FM, she set out to realize this dream.

In 1979, Mrs. Hughes and her husband made their first venture into the unwelcoming world of broadcasting by purchasing WOL (AM) in Washington, DC. She aired a radio talk show, which she hosted with her husband. Although investors did not share her vision, Cathy Hughes struggled on in pursuit of her dream.

In 1986, Mrs. Hughes made her first effort to expand. She attempted to form a "community corporation" to purchase WKYS (FM) from NBC, but couldn't raise the necessary funding before the company was sold. Still in pursuit of her dream, in 1997, she purchased WMMI (FM) in Washington. She also again pursued WKYS and in 1994, she finally purchased the station.

Mrs. Hughes took advantage of her own business skills to build the foundation of her broadcast kingdom, and all the while, Mrs. Hughes never lost sight of her goal to inform. She remained active in protesting social and political issues; so much in fact, that many feared she would lose sponsors. However, she kept lending her voice to issues of concern to her community. She was strongly opposed to the Washington Post Magazine's decision to feature an African American rapper