

Chamber
thanks Coyne
for service

Business

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THANKS, BILL—African-American Chamber of Commerce President Doris Carson Williams, Pittsburgh City Councilwoman Twanda Carlisle, Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds Valerie McDonald Roberts and Pittsburgh NAACP President Tim Stevens thank retiring U.S. Rep. Bill Coyne for his years of support for civil rights during a power breakfast.

by Chris Morrow
Courier Staff Writer

The African-American Chamber of Commerce made its June 21 Power Breakfast a farewell feast for one of the nation's strongest supporters of civil rights and Black-owned businesses—retiring U.S. Rep. Bill Coyne.

In her introduction, Chamber President Doris Carson Williams said Coyne exemplified the chamber's mission to increase opportunities for African-American businesses.

"Washington won't be the same without him," she said.

More than 60 chamber members filled the Rivers Club Downtown to salute the man Pittsburgh NAACP President Tim Stevens called one of the greatest advocates for Blacks in Pittsburgh and across the

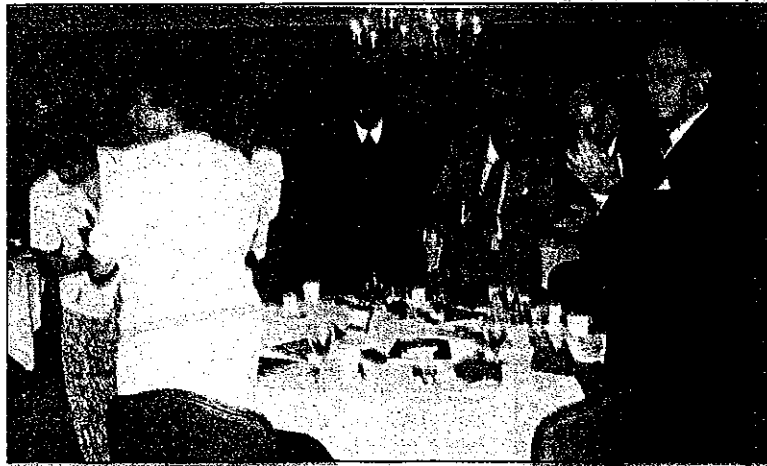
country.

"The national office consistently rated him among the top in the country," said Stevens. "He will be missed."

Coyne, who served on Pittsburgh City Council before running for Congress in 1980, thanked the chamber and recalled some of his legislative successes.

Among them were votes to create federal enterprise zones to revitalize cities; to retain the voting rights act, to reform the tax code to help small and minority-owned business, and to end racial profiling and racial discrimination in crack cocaine vs. powder cocaine sentencing.

"I am proud to have been on the right side in these struggles," said Coyne. "I leave with the appreciation that I have been a part of this. Thank you."



PHOTOS BY VENETIA PALKA