

**FRAN BUSSIE PAPERS**

Mss. 5235

Inventory

Compiled by

Dre Tarleton

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2021

**CONTENTS OF INVENTORY**

CONTENTS OF INVENTORY ..... 2  
SUMMARY ..... 3  
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE ..... 4  
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE ..... 4  
LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES ..... 5  
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS ..... 6  
INDEX TERMS ..... 9  
CONTAINER LIST ..... 10

**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please place a request via the Special Collections Request System. Consult the Container List for location information.

**Photocopying.** Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. Do not remove items to be photocopied. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained. Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of original held by LSU Libraries), when available.

**Publication.** Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

Proper acknowledgment of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	0.25 linear feet
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Washington, D.C.; Baton Rouge, Louisiana
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1972-2013
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1975-1997
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	Frances “Fran” Martinez Bussie was born on May 6, 1935, in New Orleans, LA, lived most of her life in Baton Rouge, LA, and was a lobbyist for women’s, disabled and aging rights. The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, and articles documenting primarily her political life and achievements.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	None
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	May be reproduced.
<b>Copyright</b>	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
<b>Related Collections</b>	Victor Bussie Papers, Mss. 5237
<b>Citation</b>	Fran Bussie Papers, Mss. 5235, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	X:79, OS:B

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Frances “Fran” Martinez Bussie was born on May 6, 1935, in New Orleans, LA. Her first act of public service was during World War II when she accompanied her teacher to treat injured soldiers at the local military hospital. In her early adulthood, she became active in advocating for the rights of developmentally and mentally disabled individuals, as well as the rights of the aging.

In 1972, she married Victor Bussie, head of the Louisiana chapter of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). Fran brought her own two children, Tara Nolan Messenger and Michael Q Nolan, to join households. That same year, she became the Community Services Director of the AFL-CIO, a position she held into the 1990s.

Throughout her career, Fran served on the Democratic State Central Committee Board and the Democratic National Committee, the 1993 Louisiana Senate Action Committee Subcommittee on Health and Social Services, and the Board of Advisors for the LSU School of Social Work. She was also the Executive Director for the Mental Health Association of Baton Rouge, Vice-Chair of the Louisiana Health Care Authority, Board Chair of the Old State Capitol State Advisory, and the Vice-Chair of the Department of Public Safety for the State Advisory Board for Women in the Criminal Justice System.

She was awarded multiple awards throughout her life, including the 1993 Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award and the 1988 Volunteer Activists Award. She was friends with Bill and Hillary Clinton, as well as several other national politicians, and was invited to the White House several times during both the Carter administration and the Clinton administration.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection consists of correspondence, professional papers, awards, photographs, newspaper clippings, and activist ephemera documenting the life and professional career of Frances Martinez Bussie. This includes her tenure as a leader in the feminist, mentally and developmentally disabled, and aging rights political scenes, both nationwide and in Baton Rouge, between the early 1970s and the mid-1990s. Most materials document her political work and activism, with some materials pertaining to her personal life and friendly interactions with local, state, and national politicians, such as Vice President Al Gore and Governor Edwin Edwards.

**LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES**

**Series I. Correspondence, 1972-2012, undated**

**Subseries 1. Political Correspondence, 1977-1996, undated**

**Subseries 2. Personal Correspondence, 1972-2012, undated**

**Series II. Professional Works and Achievements, 1976-2013, undated**

**Subseries 1. Local Philanthropy and Works, 1976-1992, undated**

**Subseries 2. YWCA Women of Achievement Award, 1988**

**Subseries 3. Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award, 1993**

**Subseries 4. AFL-CIO Award, 2011**

**Subseries 5. Volunteer Activists Award, 1988**

**Subseries 6. Other Awards, 1977-2013**

**Series III. Activism, 1972-1993, undated**

**Subseries 1. Women's Rights-ERA Activism, 1973-1993, undated**

**Subseries 2. Disability Rights, 1972-1993, undated**

**Subseries 3. Aging Rights, 1978-1991**

**Series IV. Photographs, 1990, undated**

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I. Correspondence, 1972-2012, undated**

#### **Subseries 1 Political Correspondence, 1977-1996, undated**

This subseries contains invitations to meetings with President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, President and Mrs. Clinton, Ernesto Zedillo, and former Soviet President Boris Yeltsin. Also included are invitations to local philanthropic events, a thank you letter from President Carter regarding Fran's participation in the 1977 Inaugural Host Committee, a letter from Governor of Louisiana Buddy Roemer, and other items pertaining to her involvement with local, state, and federal political campaigns. Of particular note are letters of acknowledgment from Bill Clinton, Michael Dukakis, and Walter F. Mondale for endorsements to their respective campaigns. Some items have corresponding photographs attached.

#### **Subseries 2 Personal Correspondence, 1972-2012, undated**

This subseries contains letters from prominent political figures and personal friends of Fran Bussie. Items include a birthday card from Bill and Hillary Clinton, a letter of condolence from Senator John A. Alario, Jr. regarding the passing of Fran's son, and a thank you card from former Governor Edwin Edwards. Also included are letters of congratulations from Hale Boggs to Fran on her marriage to Victor, and letters of congratulations from J. Bennett Johnston and Vice President Al Gore on the occasion of Fran and Victor's joint retirement.

### **Series II. Professional Works and Achievements, 1976-2013, undated**

#### **Subseries 1. Local Philanthropy & Works, 1976-1992, undated**

This subseries contains newspaper articles, magazine articles, and correspondence about local events and philanthropic endeavors in which Fran was actively involved. Topics of articles include the Edwin Edwards roast, the Old State Capitol reception, and the LSU School of Social Work Alumni Association awards banquet.

#### **Subseries 2. YWCA Women of Achievement Award, 1988**

This subseries contains materials related to the local YWCA Women of Achievement Award given to Fran in 1988. It contains correspondence directly related to the award, programs from the award ceremony, the written introduction given for Fran, note cards for her thank you speech, and the award itself.

#### **Subseries 3. Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award, 1993**

This subseries contains materials related to the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award given to Fran in 1993. It contains letters of congratulations, postcards, newspaper clippings, photographs, a program from the banquet, and a transcript of her acceptance speech.

**Subseries 4. AFL-CIO Hall of Fame, 2011**

This subseries contains materials related to Fran's induction into the AFL-CIO Hall of Fame in 2011. It contains the program, copies of her speech, an award letter, and the award itself.

**Subseries 5. Volunteer Activists Award, 1988**

This subseries contains materials related to Fran's receiving the Volunteer Activists Award in 1988. The Volunteer Activists Award was an annual event where seven local activists and volunteers were honored for their impacts on the community. It contains the nomination form, correspondence from Fran thanking friends and colleagues for their congratulations, and programs from the award ceremony.

**Subseries 6. Other Awards, 1977-2013**

This subseries contains materials related to other awards given to Fran over the years. Awards include a Hall of Fame induction from the Louisiana Center for Women & Government at Nicholls State University, a 75 Distinguished Honoree award for the LSU School of Social Work, and the Caring and Sharing Award of the Baton Rouge Chapter of Physically Limited Association for a Construction Environment (PLACE), International, among others.

**Series III. Activism, 1972-1993, undated**

**Subseries 1. Women's Rights, 1973-1993, undated**

This subseries contains materials related to Fran's work in feminist activism in Louisiana. It contains newspaper clippings, political slogan pins, and photographs of Fran lobbying and protesting with the National Organization for Women (NOW) for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. It also contains information on state laws she lobbied for and efforts she engaged in, such as her 1995 run for Governor of Louisiana on a feminist platform.

**Subseries 2. Disability Rights, 1972-1993, undated**

This subseries contains materials related to Fran's local and state work for the rights of disabled individuals. It includes her push for special education laws, national health insurance, and an end to automatic arrests for people in crisis. Materials also reflect her fundraising for disability-related charities and her campaign to get businesses to employ those with mental and physical disabilities.

**Subseries 3. Aging Rights, 1978-1991**

This subseries contains items related to Fran's work advocating for aging rights. Materials include the Spring 1991 edition of *The Agin' Cajun* that spotlights her work in geriatric education, her work to push for health advocates for the elderly, and her address to the Greater Baton Rouge Division of the Arthritis Association.

**Series IV. Photographs, 1990, undated**

This series contains six photographs of Fran Bussie, including undated photographs with Bill Clinton at a DNC event and Senator Ted Kennedy at the AFL-CIO conference. Also included are photos of Fran talking to Senator John Breaux and lobbying at the Louisiana State House.



**INDEX TERMS**

**Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.**

<b>AFL-CIO.</b>	<b>II, IV</b>
<b>Awards.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Bussie, Frances Martinez, 1935-</b>	<b>I-IV</b>
<b>Bussie, Victor, 1919-2011.</b>	<b>I-IV</b>
<b>Carter, Jimmy, 1924-</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Clinton, Bill, 1946-</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Dukakis, Michael S. (Michael Stanley), 1933-</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Edwards, Edwin W.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Equal rights amendments--United States.</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>Gore, Al, 1948-</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Letters (correspondence)</b>	<b>I-III</b>
<b>Mondale, Walter F., 1928-2021.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Newspaper clippings.</b>	<b>II-III</b>
<b>Older people--Care--United States.</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>People with disabilities--Legal status, laws, etc.--United States.</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>Photographic prints.</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>Roemer, Buddy.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Women's rights--United States.</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>Yeltsin, Boris Nikolayevich, 1931-2007.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Young Women's Christian Association.</b>	<b>II</b>

**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			<b>Series I. Correspondence, 1972-2012, undated</b>
<b>X:79</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Subseries 1. Political Correspondence, 1977-1996, undated</b>
		<b>2</b>	<b>Subseries 2. Personal Correspondence, 1972-2012, undated</b>
			<b>Series II. Professional Works and Achievements, 1976-2013, undated</b>
		<b>3</b>	<b>Subseries 1. Local Philanthropy &amp; Works, 1976-1992, undated</b>
		<b>4</b>	<b>Subseries 2. YWCA Women of Achievement Award, 1988</b>
		<b>5</b>	<b>Subseries 3. Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award, 1993</b>
		<b>6</b>	<b>Subseries 4. AFL-CIO Award, 2011</b>
		<b>7</b>	<b>Subseries 5. Volunteer Activists Award, 1988</b>
		<b>8</b>	<b>Subseries 6. Other Awards, 1977-2013</b>
<b>OS:B</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Other Awards (oversize), 1984</b>
			<b>Series III. Activism, 1972-1993, undated</b>
<b>X:79</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9-10</b>	<b>Subseries 1. Women's Rights, 1973-1993, undated</b>
		<b>11</b>	<b>Subseries 2. Disability Rights, 1972-1993, undated</b>
		<b>12</b>	<b>Subseries 3. Aging Rights, 1978-1991</b>
		<b>13</b>	<b>Series IV. Photographs, 1990, undated</b>