

I believe we would be hard-pressed to find someone more dedicated than Ms. Hillman to strengthening the voices of all citizens, including those who are disabled. I hope that Ms. Hillman and the rest of the nominees are confirmed by the full Senate before they adjourn for the year.

I urge full funding of the Help American Vote Act to ensure that the 2004 elections do not repeat the trouble-plagued elections of 2000. The act of voting for our government representatives is a sacred right of all Americans. It is our duty, through HAVA, to inspire them to use that right. President Lyndon Johnson most succinctly stated this duty as he spoke to Congress on March 15, 1965, to explore them to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965: "There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right (to vote)."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from Washington on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, for official business. As a result, I was not recorded for rollcall votes No. 569, No. 570, No. 571, No. 572 and No. 573. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 569, "aye" on No. 570 and no on rollcalls No. 571, No. 572 and No. 573.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness yesterday I was unable to vote for the following rollcall votes and I have listed how I would have voted on them if I had been present.

Rollcall 569: "Yes;" rollcall 570: "yes;" rollcall 571: "no;" rollcall 572: "no;" and rollcall 573: "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, due to my participation in an International Relations Committee delegation to Iraq, I was unable to vote on rollcall 569 to 573. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

On rollcall vote 569, the rule to recommit the Conference Report on H.R. 2115—the FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 571, the Marked motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6—the Energy conference report, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 572, the Woolsey motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308—the Tax Relief, Simplification and Equity Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 573, the Brown motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug bill, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 570, H.R. 2359—the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003, I would have voted "no."

The Basic Pilot Program currently enables participating employers in various industries to verify if employees are legally authorized to work in the United States. H.R. 2359 goes much further than a simple extension of the program.

In fact, this bill would enable states and local governments to use the databases to obtain citizenship and immigration status information on anyone—citizen or immigrant—for any purpose within their purview. This would expand the pilot program far beyond the context of employment and close to a national ID program with no privacy protections or safeguards against abuse by individuals within state and local governments.

This bill would also expand the availability of the program from just 6 states to all 50, without first addressing the many privacy and inaccuracy concerns in the current program. For example, the immigration databases used to verify work authorization are inaccurate and outdated. In some cases, workers with authorization have been fired because of incorrect data in the system. Moreover, some employers have inappropriately used the database to pre-screen employees, without providing an opportunity for the prospective employee to challenge the accuracy of the data.

Additionally, the House Judiciary Committee did not hold any hearings or mark-ups on the changes contained in H.R. 2359 despite the fact that this bill makes significant changes to existing law. For these reasons, I would have voted "no" on H.R. 2359, the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003.

I ask for unanimous consent that this be inserted into the RECORD.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONS ASSOCIATION CHARITIES OF FORT MEYERS, FLORIDA

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Nations Association Charities of Fort Myers, Florida. This grass roots organization has been successfully meeting the needs of the poor and destitute in Southwest Florida, and for that we are grateful.

I have personally supported and followed the development of the Nations Association since its founding in 1978 by the Reverend Doctor Israel Suarez, his wife Ruth, and a small group of dedicated citizens. Israel and Ruth have unselfishly committed their lives to this labor of love, reaching out to the less fortunate in our area. They have touched hundreds of people with their kindness and caring, and they have inspired countless others to become involved in ministering to the poor.

The Nations Association provides emergency food, hundreds of hot holiday meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas for the homeless, free furniture for families in crisis, job placement services, Survival English classes, free

immigration law services, and recreational activities for disadvantaged youth and many more services too numerous to name.

The Nations Association has touched the lives of over 11 thousand individuals with only a small paid staff and 144 volunteers who provide over 7000 hours of service annually to the community. In 1990 the Association was deservedly named the 276th Point of Light by President George H. W. Bush.

After 25 years, the Nations Association is going strong—its energies dedicated to making a real difference in the lives of hundreds of families and individuals everyday. I pay tribute today to the tremendous work of Israel and Ruth Suarez and the staff and volunteers of the Nations Association. Theirs is a shining example of the true American spirit of helping others.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CAPTAIN RICHARD C. YEEND, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of Captain Richard C. Yeend, Jr. Capt. Yeend was serving as the co-pilot of an HH-3E, "Jolly Green Giant" helicopter sent to rescue a Marine pilot when the helicopter was shot down over Laos on June 9, 1968. Captain Yeend was listed as killed in action/body not recovered until his remains, along with the rest of the crew, were identified and returned home in September. He was buried September 28, 2003, thirty-five years after his helicopter was shot down.

Captain Yeend was raised in Mobile, Alabama, as the second of five children. He was a member of the Air Force ROTC at Auburn University and went on to flight school. After flying B-52s for several years, he volunteered for helicopter flight school as the Vietnam conflict escalated. Captain Yeend was deployed to Vietnam in February of 1968. His service to our country is evidenced by the awards he was awarded posthumously, including the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and the Purple Heart.

On October 11, 2003, on what would have been his 65th birthday, hundreds gathered at the Lower Alabama Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile to pay tribute to Captain Yeend, a man whose heroic efforts have not been forgotten. Retired Navy Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton, who was a prisoner of war for over seven years during Vietnam, was the featured speaker. Admiral Denton praised Captain Yeend for his service and the Yeend family for its continued devotion to their country throughout their years of hardship, waiting while their loved one's remains were unaccounted for. He praised Captain Yeend along with all the Vietnam veterans in the audience for their service and assured everyone that their efforts were appreciated by all.

Captain Richard Yeend was a man whose honor and devotion to his family and his country were seen in his daily acts of courage and his willingness to take on heroic acts. A man of great character and respect, Captain Yeend

was a leader in all aspects of his life. His siblings looked to him for guidance and support. With his remains now returned home and at rest, may they have some peace and closure and know that he will be honored for his heroic actions. His sacrifice is a tribute to everyone that fought and those who continue to fight for the betterment of others and for the spirit of freedom which so many people throughout the world still yearn for.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Captain Yeend and in offering our condolences to his family for their loss and their struggle through the years as they awaited his final trip home.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL G.
HARTLEY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a truly great American, influential leader and dear friend—Mr. Bill Hartley, Chairman of the Board and President and CEO of Southside Bank. On October 23, 2003, Texas College, in Tyler, Texas, honored Mr. Hartley for his dedicated service as a member of their Board of Trustees, and as his friend and fellow member of the Board, I honor him with this tribute today.

Bill G. Hartley was born in Mount Pleasant, Texas and attended Mount Pleasant High School. He entered the Texas National Guard in 1948 and concluded his service in 1956 with the rank of Master Sergeant.

Mr. Hartley has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the banking industry, working first at the Guaranty Bond State Bank in Mount Pleasant, then at the Texas Banking Department in Austin, Texas. He presently serves as Chairman of the Board and CEO of the company he founded in 1960—Southside Bancshares, Inc., Southside Bank in Tyler, Texas. As Southside's, CEO—Bill expressed his support of education—and those who sought knowledge—by approving and making student loans in huge numbers—while other institutions were reluctant to do so.

Mr. Hartley is married to Billie Boyd, formerly of Chandler, Texas, and they were blessed with two children, Jane Hartley Coker and Patrick Hartley. Their hearts were broken when Patrick died. He will always be loved and remembered. Bill is affiliated with Marvin United Methodist Church and is an active participant on the Church's Administrative Committee.

Among his many professional and civic responsibilities and memberships are his positions as State Membership Chairman for the American Bankers Association, Chairman of the Texas Bankers Insurance Services Company in Austin, Texas, and Claims and Underwriting Committee Member for Bancinsure in Oklahoma City. At the local level, he serves as Director and Past President of the Tyler, Texas Chamber of Commerce, a Trustee for the R.W. Fair Foundation, Director and Executive Committee Member for the University of Texas at Tyler, Development and Council Member at the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler, Trustee and Executive Committee Member for the Texas Chest Founda-

tion, and a Development Council Member for Tyler Junior College Foundation.

Additionally, Mr. Hartley gives his time as Director of the East Texas Medical Center Regional Health Facilities and the East Texas Medical Center Regional Healthcare System, Director and Past President of the Texas Rose Festival in Tyler, Texas, an Advisory Council Member for the Patent Service Center, Inc., Director of the Smith County Industrial Development Corporation, and as Director for the Tyler-Smith County Library Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Hartley is involved with numerous philanthropic deeds, but among these, his exemplary service as a trustee and member of the executive committee of the Texas College Board of Trustees is being recognized today. He has been instrumental in bringing major gifts to the College during a very critical fundraising period, and in 1996 alone, Mr. Hartley secured more than \$600,000 for Texas College's retirement debt. It is generous efforts like these that warranted his receipt of the T.B. Butler Award—Tyler's Most Outstanding Citizen award in 1992.

Sometimes when an individual is so noted, has such a high community, state, and national profile, is sought out for support from everyone who makes a precinct race—on up to our own fine President George W. Bush—their human traits are lost in the hustle and bustle of guiding a huge and successful financial empire, serving on Boards and Committees, traversing our nation for speeches, meetings, and organizations—sometimes we miss out on the human aspect of a great one among us. Bill Hartley has always taken the time, and still takes the time, to put family first. He is a kind and loving Father to Jane, her husband Michael, and his grandson Hartley. He spent unending days and hours with Patrick during his lifetime—giving of himself, with Billie—and remembers Patrick's lifetime by organizing and supporting a trust fund in Patrick's memory. You will never say "Bill Hartley did so and so"—you always say "Bill and Billie did so and so."

As we near the end of this Congressional year—let us adjourn in honor of and in appreciation of one who fits the overused term—he's a "giver" and not a "taker." God Bless Bill Hartley and those he holds dear.

HONORING DORTA SCOTT FOR HER
CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARKAN-
SAS STATE COIN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional artist from Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District, Ms. Dortha Scott of Mount Ida. Out of more than 9,300 entries, Ms. Scott's outstanding sketch has been selected to be used by the U.S. Mint for the Arkansas Quarter. The U.S. Mint will produce the Quarter for 10 weeks, and between 650–750 million quarters will be put into circulation across the United States.

Our Quarter incorporates several elements that truly reflect Arkansas. This is a coin that helps everyone in our nation understand why Arkansas is so proudly called "The Natural State." The background of the Quarter rep-

resents the abundance of natural resources that our state encompasses. Elements of the Quarter, including a mallard duck soaring above the water with trees in the background, symbolizes Arkansas's reputation as one of the most popular states in the country for hunting and fishing, and as a state with a high-abundance of forest land. The rice on the left side of the Quarter signifies the important role rice and other agricultural crops play in Arkansas's economy, as agriculture has historically been a way of life for so many working families. Arkansas leads the country in rice production.

The centerpiece of the Quarter is a diamond, representing the Crater of Diamonds State Park near Murfreesboro. The Crater of Diamonds State Park is not only home to the largest diamond ever to be unearthed in the United States, but is also the eighth largest diamond deposit in the world, and the only diamond mine in the world where the public can search for diamonds. The Crater of Diamonds State Park is a leading source for Arkansas pride and tourism.

I am honored that the Arkansas Quarter is one that truly showcases the state and all it has to offer. I hope that everyone will take time to reflect upon Arkansas's treasures and history, and join us in celebrating our new state coin. I am so pleased to have the opportunity to properly recognize Ms. Dortha Scott before the United States Congress for her beautiful artwork that truly depicts our great state, which will be viewed by millions of Americans as they earn and spend the Arkansas Quarter.

HONORING ELECTRIC BOAT'S
DISTINGUISHED SHIPBUILDERS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 67 men and women who work at Electric Boat, in Groton, Connecticut. These individuals have worked at Electric Boat for 40 or more years and due to their length of service have earned the title: Distinguished Shipbuilder.

Kenneth Guarneri, William Ferguson, Richard Morgan, Thomas Nunes, John Prokop, Alexander Fraser, Reed Davignon, Robert Rosso, Mary Sousa, Pauline Passarello, Patricia Rossi, Walter Greenhalgh, Ernest Carrier, Paul Losacano, Fred Vocatura, Richard Sobanski, Robert Ness, Ernest Messier, Jeffrey Pritchard, Jackson Morgan, John Burbine, Denzel Andrews, Stanley Menitz, Robert Collins, Carl Kvist, Ronald Drounin, William Vaiciulis, Vincent Nadolny, Paul Terry, Larry Yering, Stephen Wells, Keith Bradshaw, John Haberek, Ralph Lodyko, Ronald Leuchner, Gerald Gent, Brent Weimer, Ronald DeCarolis, Arnold Kortick, James Welch, Richard Sears, Anthony Falcone, Norman Laroche, Robert Boyle, Donald Noel, Edward Goode, William Bak, Joseph Woycik, Richard Supernant, Janis Pike, Brian Lumnah, Alfred Malchiodi, Ronald Meadows, Edward Haik, Manuel Arruda, Donald Bartlett, John Bashaw, James Brown Jr., Everett Church, Dominic Cirioni Jr., James Cunningham, Hedrick Facas, Richard Lambert, Robert Mayor, David Matthews, Robert Panciera, and Roy Rock.