

companies were invited to bid on post-war reconstruction contracts in Iraq. Most prominently, Bechtel, an engineering and construction firm, was awarded an initial contract of \$34.6 million that could potentially grow to \$680 million over the next year and a half. It is critical that openness and transparency are the hallmarks of the reconstruction process, and for that reason, I am introducing the "Sunshine in Iraq Reconstruction Contracting Act."

Although legal, the bidding process thus far leaves much to be desired. Left unanswered are questions about why open competition was not allowed, and the size and scope of the reconstruction contracts awarded. We should all be able to agree that the U.S. government's reconstruction bidding process should be as open to disclosure as possible to ensure that there is no question of political favoritism or backroom deal making. After all, these contracts are spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars, and our constituents deserve to know to whom their money is going and why.

My legislation, which mirrors a bipartisan Senate measure, simply requires federal agencies that award contracts for Iraqi reconstruction activities to publicly disclose how a non-competitive contract was awarded, and the justification for foregoing an open-bid process.

These details, along with a brief description of the contract's cost and scope, would have to be published in the Federal Register within 30 days of the date the contract was awarded. Any classified information would only be provided to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Government Reform Committees, as well as whichever committee has jurisdiction over an agency that awards a non-competitive contract.

It only makes it more difficult for the United States to hold ourselves up as a model for a future Iraqi government if the contracts the federal government awards are done with little or no competition and without adequate public disclosure. The Iraq reconstruction process should be as open as possible. This is not a partisan issue, but one that concerns the public interest and American credibility. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this measure.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF RONALD
LAGRONE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the life and legacy of Ronald LaGrone, a colleague and a friend of mine from Hamburg, Arkansas. I was honored to have known Mr. LaGrone, a man who, in deed and action, distinguished himself as a husband, father, businessman, and church and community leader.

Ronnie LaGrone owned and ran the LaGrone Drug Store in Hamburg with his brother Fred. For 38 years, he helped to care for the health of his friends and neighbors. Ronnie leaves behind him a proud legacy of service and compassion. He served as Deacon of the First Baptist Church, as Hamburg City Councilman, and as board member of the Arkansas Pharmacy Association.

As a pharmacy owner, I owe him a debt of gratitude for his long service of leadership to

our profession. Ronnie set out to improve the lives of others through both his professional and his private life. As a member of a small community, I know what men like Ronnie mean to their neighbors; his service was out of true concern for their livelihood.

Ronnie's contributions were recently recognized by the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, as he was named winner of the Fred LaGrone Lifetime Achievement Award for his role as community pharmacist and as community leader. Clearly, his community mourned his loss. I know Ronnie's passing was especially difficult for his wife, Patricia, and their three daughters, Terri, Kelli, and Staci, and I have kept all of them in my thoughts and in my prayers. While Ronnie LaGrone may no longer be with us, his spirit and his legacy live on in the example he set and the many lives he touched.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
DOWNTOWN LIONS CLUB

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Downingtown Lions Club during its 75th anniversary celebration. The Downingtown Lions Club was chartered in January of 1928 and they were sponsored by the Coatesville Lions Club.

As we all know, Lions Clubs across the nation are made up of active and energetic citizens who undertake numerous initiatives and projects to make their communities better places to live and raise families. They are particularly committed to providing help and service to the blind through a wide variety of support activities. The Downingtown Lions Club hosts four major fundraising events each year—White Cane Day, a golf outing, Good Neighbor Day and a pancake breakfast. These efforts have helped many charitable organizations over the years, including the Chester County Association for the Blind and the Downingtown Area Senior Center.

The good works of the Club have also resulted in contributions to the Downingtown Area Veterans Memorial Fund, Downingtown Historical Society and various health appeals. And the entire community has benefited from the Club's particular attention to the development of Kerr Park, including a pavilion, the war memorial, and a water fountain.

I am proud to be a member of and represent an organization that has spent so many years in the service of others. I wish to extend my thanks, and the thanks of all those who have been helped by members of the Club. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting Downingtown Lions Club on reaching this milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BURNEY
L. ADAMS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize a great

man and leader, Mr. Burney L. Adams. A man who has given much to his community, Mr. Adams will be honored this Friday, May 2, 2003 by Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's National Alumni Association with their 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award.

After graduating from Florida A&M, Mr. Adams was signed with the Canadian Professional Football team, the Hamilton Tigers. Upon release, he journeyed to Newark, New Jersey where he took a job with the Newark Board of Education. Mr. Adams made Newark his home, and has been a role model and significant contributor to the community for the past 40 years.

Through his work with the Board of Education as well as Football Coach at Weequahic High School, Mr. Adams saw the need for assistance of minority students in pursuing higher educational goals. Since 1963 he has been instrumental in obtaining college scholarship assistance for more than 900 youth in both my district as well as neighboring areas.

As a former teacher and current member of the Education & the Workforce Committee here in the House of Representatives, I appreciate the drive and determination of educators such as Mr. Adams. Coach Adams has a dedication and devotion not only to his players on the field but also to the youth of his community. Investing personal time, effort, and money into his students, Coach Adams believes in the spirit of his students to succeed. It is members of our community like Mr. Adams who give so selflessly of their time that enables our youngest citizens to reach their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today as I recognize Burney Adams and his well deserved award from Florida A&M University. I wish him the very best on this special occasion and best wishes in all his future endeavors.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO THE
LATE FAMU COACH, PROFESSOR
ROBERT T. "BOB" MUNGEN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, though it is a sad day for the entire Florida A&M University family, find it a great privilege to pay this posthumous tribute to the late Coach and Professor Robert T. "Bob" Mungen. His untimely demise this past Sunday, April 20, 2003, leaves a great void in our historic institution. He is survived by his beloved wife Doretha, his son Robert and daughters Toyka and Sonya Lynn.

Coach Mungen's magnificent contributions to the personal and professional growth of countless students and scholar-athletes at FAMU, Edward Waters College and Knoxville College are legendary and now emblaze the halls of academia. To his credit, young men and young women who came under his tutelage found a caring professor and an indomitable coach, who was at the same time highly regarded and loved as a confidant and a dotting father-figure.

Nowhere has his role of advocating played out so genuinely in the lives of his students

than in the indelible mark he left on Barbara Thompson, a former student and colleague of his. Captured recently by the daily paper, The Tallahassee Democrat, she cogently characterized him as “. . . someone I could go and get real good advice from like a daughter . . . As a student, I confided in him. As a colleague, I confided in him.”

A Jacksonville native, “Bob” Mungen played under the legendary Coach A.S. Jake Gaither in three choice positions as quarterback, defensive back and running back on the FAMU football team. His prowess in playing those positions were so remarkable that Coach Gaither superlatively dubbed him as “. . . the most versatile athlete I ever coached.”

Professor Mungen served as head football coach at Edward Waters College in Jacksonville and later on at Knoxville College in Tennessee before coming back to FAMU in 1961. Assigned to the physical education department, he took over the men’s tennis program and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1997.

In his role as teacher and coach, he gained the confidence of countless parents who saw in him as the educator par excellence. They entrusted him with the future of their children, fully confident that they too would learn from him the tenets of scholarship and the pursuit of academic excellence under the rigors of a no-nonsense discipline and personal responsibility. In times of crises crowding his students’ quest for learning, his forthright guidance was one that verged on faith in God and confidence in one’s ability to survive the vicissitudes of life.

Indeed, our FAMU family is deeply touched and comforted by the undaunted leadership and personal warmth he exuded to those who came to him through the longevity of his service. This is the genuine legacy he bequeathed to those of us he left behind. In a special way, I am privileged to be a grateful alumnus of a great institution of learning, graced bountifully by his remarkable contributions.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY SUTTON
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT
OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH
CIRCUIT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern over the President’s nomination of Jeffrey Sutton to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. According to a recent editorial in the New York Times, Mr. Sutton has pursued an extremist agenda against the employment rights of women with breast cancer as well as victims of domestic violence.

Here is what the New York Times reported on April 28th.

“Mr. Sutton argued a landmark disability rights case in the Supreme Court. Patricia Garrett, a nurse at an Alabama state hospital, asserted that her employer fired her because she had breast cancer, violating the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Sutton argued that the Act did not protect state employees like Ms. Garrett. His states’-rights argument narrowly won over the court, and deprived millions of state workers

of legal protection. He also invoked federalism to urge the court to strike down the Violence Against Women Act. It did so, 5 to 4, dismantling federal protection for sexual assault victims.”

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a moderate and independent Member of this House. I don’t believe that extremism on either end of the spectrum can solve the challenges facing our nation. But I am concerned about a pattern of judicial nominations by the Administration which would fill our benches with the most ideologically driven nominees at the most extreme right of the conservative movement. Nominating an individual who has sought to dismantle federal protections against victims of domestic violence and who has advocated denying a woman with breast cancer legal protection is deeply disturbing.

I insert “Another Ideologue for the Courts” in today’s RECORD, and urge my colleagues to consider it:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 28, 2003]

ANOTHER IDEOLOGUE FOR THE COURTS

It seems likely that Jeffrey Sutton, a nominee to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati, will be confirmed by the Senate this week. But it is important to recognize why he was selected, and how he fits the Bush administration’s plan for an ideological takeover of the courts. Whichever way the Senate votes on him, it must insist that the administration start selecting judges who do not come with a far-right agenda.

There is no shortage of worthy judicial nominees. Federal courts are filled with district court judges, Republicans and Democrats, who have shown evenhandedness and professionalism, and many would make fine appeals court judges. State courts are overflowing with judges and lawyers known for their excellence, not their politics.

The Bush administration, however, has sought nominees whose main qualification is a commitment to far-right ideology. Mr. Sutton is the latest example. He is an activist for “federalism,” a euphemism for a rigid states’-rights legal philosophy. Although federalism commands a narrow majority on the Supreme Court, advocates like Mr. Sutton are taking the law in a disturbing direction, depriving minorities, women and the disabled of important rights.

Mr. Sutton argued a landmark disability rights case in the Supreme Court. Patricia Garrett, a nurse at an Alabama state hospital, asserted that her employer fired her because she had breast cancer, violating the Americans With Disabilities Act. Mr. Sutton argued that the act did not protect state employees like Ms. Garrett. His states’-rights argument narrowly won over the court, and deprived millions of state workers of legal protection. He also invoked federalism to urge the court to strike down the Violence Against Women Act. It did so, 5 to 4, dismantling federal protection for sexual assault victims. Mr. Sutton has said that he was only doing his job, and that his concern was building a law practice, not choosing sides. But throughout his career, he has taken on major cases that advance the conservative agenda. He has left little doubt in his public statements that he supports these rulings.

At his confirmation hearing, Mr. Sutton faced protesters with guide dogs and wheelchairs, who were upset about his role in rolling back disability law. Naturally, they urged the Senate to reject him. But the senators’ duty to advise and consent goes beyond their vote on any particular nominee. They must make it clear that in a nation brimming with legal talent, it is unacceptable to focus the search for federal judges on a narrow group of ideologues.

U.S. GOLD AWARD FOR MEREDITH
ELLIS OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP 4043

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley, Inc. in Rock Island, Illinois. She is Meredith Ellis of Girl Scout Troop 4043.

She is being honored for earning the highest achievement award in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley, Inc., Meredith began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in June 1999. Meredith worked with her partner Maria Witte on painting a wall mural for a local gymnastics facility.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Meredith and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

HONORING JUDGE VERNELIS K.
ARMSTRONG

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special constituent, United States District Court Magistrate Judge Vernelis K. Armstrong, on the occasion of her receipt of the Ohio Women’s Bar Association’s Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction. This award is the OWBA’s highest award for professional excellence and is bestowed annually on a deserving attorney who exhibits leadership in the areas of advancing the status and interests of women and in improving the legal profession in the state of Ohio. It gives me great pleasure to wish Judge Armstrong my warmest congratulations on this truly special occasion.

The Honorable Vernelis K. Armstrong is a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District