

from college, he enlisted in the Army as a private and after a period of outstanding service received a direct commission as a second lieutenant. A veteran of the war in Vietnam and the recipient of the Bronze Star and nine other medals, Judge Butler retired as a colonel from the United States Army Reserve in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Judge John Butler for his tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm he brought to his job and the concern and compassion he displayed for the young people of the region are unquestioned and unparalleled. He has indeed been a genuine asset both to the circuit court and to the thousands of men, women, and children he has assisted over the past 2 decades. I am proud and honored to call him my friend.

Make no mistake, the judge's talents and experience on the bench will be sorely missed, but I am confident he will continue to remain actively involved in the life of the Mobile community for many years to come. Along with his friends and colleagues throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to Judge Butler and his family all the best now and in the future.

#### IN TRIBUTE OF DOROTHY POTTER

#### HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend one of Western North Carolina's and Buncombe Counties finest citizens, the late Dorothy A. Potter. Dot, as she was fondly called by her many, many friends and acquaintances, passed away on November 8, 2003. She was a wonderful woman, who worked tirelessly for not only the Republican Party, but also to educate others about this great country's political system in general. I doubt there was ever an election that Dot did not participate in, in some shape, form or fashion.

Dorothy Belle Alexander Potter was born Feb. 24, 1920, in Charlotte, the youngest daughter of the late Robert Lester and Cynthia Welch Alexander. She was a direct descendant of Hezekiah Alexander, a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and a founding father of Charlotte. She was a classmate of the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham at Sharon High School and graduated in 1936. She earned a B.S. in library science from Queens College in 1940. Mr. and Mrs. Potter moved to Asheville in 1948.

Mrs. Potter was an energetic, founding member of the Buncombe County Republican Party and remained active in area politics for the majority of her life. She was vice chairman of the Buncombe County Republican Party for 16 years. Mrs. Potter served in many campaigns including the historic 1969 City Council Race, electing a Republican majority and Wayne Montgomery, M.D., as mayor, the 1972 gubernatorial race electing Jim Holshouser as the first Republican governor in North Carolina since Reconstruction and the 1980 election of Bill Hendon to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mrs. Potter was chairman of the Governor's Western Residence Committee during Gov.

Holshouser's tenure. She served as deputy Clerk of Court in Buncombe County and was a valued member of former Rep. Hendon's district office until 1983. She was also the Buncombe County Chairman for the 1992 election of President George H.W. Bush.

Mrs. Potter was a charter member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where she was an Elder and served as a member of the Session. She was also a member of the board of directors for the preschool. She was the last living charter member of the Buncombe County Republican Women's Club and a lifetime member of the North Carolina Republican Women's Club. She was also a member of Phi Mu women's fraternity and was a member and officer of the Sky-Hy Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Lt. Col. Wesley J. Potter (ret.); daughters, Dr. Cynthia Potter Smith and husband, Durham, of Lake Wylie, S.C., and Lynda Potter Fagan and husband, Michael, of Asheville; granddaughter, Shanon Fagan of Asheville; grandson, Matthew Smith and wife, Sonya, of Clover, S.C.; and granddaughter, Erin Fagan of Washington, D.C., and Asheville.

Mrs. Potter is also survived by three great-grandchildren; a niece, Sally Pollock and a nephew, Robert Suther, both of Washington state and a great-nephew.

#### IN HONOR OF WALTER COMEAUX

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations to Walter Comeaux, a friend and colleague from my district, upon the completion of 30 years of public service. In that time, Mr. Comeaux has dutifully served the people of Lafayette Parish and exemplified what it truly means to be a servant of the people.

Mr. Comeaux has spent more than half of his life working to better the local government in Lafayette Parish. He began as a young City Council member in Broussard, Louisiana, and then as member of the Lafayette Police Jury, including 4 years as president of that body. However, his greatest political accomplishment came as the Lafayette City and Parish governments consolidated in 1996. He was elected as the first City-Parish Council President and charged with the difficult task of making the newly formed government operate smoothly. As the first chief executive of the City-Parish government, Mr. Comeaux excelled; and 4 years later his constituents returned him to office. In his 8 years as president, he made countless improvements to the parish infrastructure while working to craft an efficient and responsive local government.

At the end of his career of service, I have no doubts that Lafayette is a better place to live due in large part to his efforts. I know that he is looking forward to more time with his family and friends, but his departure will certainly be a loss. I applaud his success and appreciate the time and commitment he has given as a public officer.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ED SWAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Ed Swan on the occasion of his retirement from the Mobile district office of the Social Security Administration. For the past 30 years, he has served the families of the State of Alabama with compassion, dedication, and a tremendous level of commitment to the men, women, and children served by the Social Security Administration.

Beginning in June 1973, with his first assignment to the Social Security office in Mobile, Alabama, Ed Swan worked for 3 decades in a succession of representative and supervisory roles in five Social Security offices throughout the State. His outstanding record as a service representative, claims representative, operations supervisor, branch manager, and management assistant in the Social Security system resulted in positive results for the many families who benefited from his efforts. Additionally, the work ethic he displayed resulted in his receiving numerous citations and awards, including a Regional Commissioner's Team Citation for his work with the Disability Claims Manager pilot program in Mobile.

Ed Swan is also one of America's proud veterans, having served in the United States Navy with distinction while assigned to Air Squadron 27 on board the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ed Swan for his tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm he brought to his job and to the Social Security Administration will indeed be missed, but I have no doubt he will turn his talents to many other positive pursuits in the days and months to come. Ed has indeed been a genuine asset both to his agency and to the thousands of men and women he assisted over the past 3 decades, and I have been proud to call him my friend.

Along with his many friends and colleagues throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to Ed Swan; his lovely wife, Cynthia; and their children, Jason and Kellie all the best in the months and years ahead.

#### HONORING PATRICIA GARMAN AS CENTRAL FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Garman as Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year.

Ms. Garman, known to friends and colleagues as Patt, is widely respected throughout the Fairfax business community. Honest

and reliable, with business savvy, Patt has proven to be an incredibly effective businessperson. She gives every venture her all and is always ready to take on new challenges. Moreover, Patt sees every project through until completion, producing consistently impressive results.

Patt heads a team of four investment advisors at Capital Planning & Investments, Inc., her own successful, independent advisory firm. CPI offers a variety of financial solutions for businesses and individuals, including customized investment and insurance advice on an hourly and ongoing basis.

In addition, Patt is highly involved with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. She serves on the CFCC Board of Directors and Small Business Committee, and through the CFCC, she has become treasurer of the city-wide Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee.

While in these positions, Patt has had numerous notable accomplishments. For example, she created a program in which CFCC breakfast seminars would pay for themselves. Through her table-top display program, Patt personally works with CFCC members to attract and schedule sponsors for the seminars. The popularity of Patt's program has enabled it to continue in the upcoming year.

Patt also was responsible for computerizing CFCC files for easy recording, implementing an aggressive budget and achieving Not-for-Profit status. These successes are indicative of her commitment, drive and character. Patt likes to make things happen and motivates others with her infectious spirit. When she sees needs, she addresses them, rallying others around her to turn visions into reality.

All things considered, Patt's special honor truly is well deserved. Over the years, she has made a lasting impact on the CFCC and greater Fairfax business community. She is an accomplished businessperson who successfully leads others through example. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Patricia Garman and congratulating her on this distinguished achievement.

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EUROPEAN UNION'S UNITED  
STAND AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the European Union for agreeing to toughen antidrug laws and urging actions to end drug tourism to the Continent.

After more than 2 years of negotiations, EU ministers reached a landmark agreement on November 27 to toughen antidrug laws and to harmonize the Continent's laws to make the bloc more efficient in the fight against illegal drugs. The laws cover all types of drug-dealing, ranging from local networks to large-scale international operations.

Under the agreed rules, offering, selling or producing drugs would be sanctioned with maximum jail terms of at least 1 to 3 years. In cases involving large-scale international drug trafficking, sanctions should be at least 5 to 10 years. Member states also agreed on a declaration stressing the importance of fighting drug tourism.

The EU's united stand against drug abuse strengthens global efforts to prevent drug abuse and to put away drug pushers and others, including terrorists, who financially benefit from destructive drug addiction.

It is disappointing that the EU agreement will allow the so-called "coffee shops" in the Netherlands, where marijuana can be legally abused, to remain open. I am, however, encouraged that the Netherlands is investigating possible approaches that would end U.S. drug tourism to Amsterdam.

Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner has stated that the Netherlands Government is considering rules under which "coffee shops" would only be allowed to sell drugs to Dutch residents as part of its obligation to dissuade tourists from going to Amsterdam for drugs. Under his proposal, only Dutch residents with identity cards would be allowed to use the cannabis cafes. This move would protect Americans visiting Amsterdam from the dangers of engaging in drug abuse. Currently, foreign tourists, including Americans, make up about 40 percent of the "coffee shop" sales in Amsterdam, according to the London Times.

I also hope that this agreement will further our international efforts to control the trafficking of ecstasy and other dangerous synthetic drugs. In recent years, traffickers have set up their illegal manufacturing operations in countries like the Netherlands in hopes of avoiding tough penalties if they are caught. This agreement should send a clear signal to the cartels that Europe and the U.S. will continue to work together to break up these international drug rings.

Furthermore, I am encouraged that the Netherlands has also agreed to increase its sanctions for the possession of small quantities of marijuana to a year from 1 month. These are important steps that I hope will eventually lead to stiffer penalties for all drug abuse.

It is increasingly clear that every nation must play a role in educating the public as to why drug abuse is harmful and in preventing drug addiction. As long as one country tolerates the production, sale or distribution of any illegal drugs, other nations, communities and families are vulnerable to the threats caused by drug abuse that is easily transported across borders.

The EU's commitment to not tolerate drug abuse and drug tourism protects not only the families and communities of Europe, but also families and communities here and elsewhere in the world.

Again, I applaud this agreement and look forward to working with these and other countries to further strengthen international drug laws and to protect children from the dangers of drug abuse and addiction.

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HONORING COMMANDER WILLIAM  
"BILL" ATKINSON

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander William Atkinson of the Merced County Sheriff's Department. Commander Atkinson has been with the department since July 6, 1976, when he began his

career as a correctional officer. He was responsible for the overall security of the Merced County Rehabilitation Center.

Commander Atkinson's work ethic was recognized, and he quickly moved up the chain of command. In 1979, he was promoted to the rank of corporal and was reassigned to the Merced County branch jail. After being assigned to the Merced County main jail in 1981, Commander Atkinson was responsible for supervising booking procedures and the health and welfare of the inmates. For 5 years, Commander Atkinson gathered statistics for a work furlough program and supervised a work-in-lieu pilot program, which required him to submit the policy and procedure to the Merced County Board of Supervisors.

Commander Atkinson continued to demonstrate his work ethic for the department and was assigned to the Main Jail Division as a facility manager in September 1995. He assumed all duties and responsibility for the division, as well as ensuring the facility was in compliance with the Board of Corrections guidelines, exceeding Health Department standards and State fire marshal inspections.

In 1999, Commander Atkinson was nominated by his peers for Officer of the Year. His years of hard work for the Merced County Sheriff's Department did not go unrecognized, and his peers selected him as their 1999 Officer of the Year. Soon after, he was promoted to sergeant and reassigned to the Sandy Mush Adult Correctional Facility as a shift supervisor, and then in May of 2001 he was promoted to senior sergeant. He displayed true dedication while supervising the Work Release/Classification Unit and was responsible for reviewing applications for eligibility for work release programs.

Finally, in November 2002, Commander Atkinson was promoted to his current rank and supervises the activities and employees of a correctional facility for the Merced County Sheriff's Department. As commander, he provides direction to subordinates and is responsible to take necessary action when alerted to emergencies or potentially dangerous situations.

Commander Atkinson will retire on January 23, 2004. I ask all of my colleagues to help me thank Commander Atkinson for his devotion and loyalty to the Merced County Sheriff's Department, the State of California, and our Nation. I am honored to call Bill my friend, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

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IN HONOR OF JOE WATSON

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Watson on being the 2004 recipient of the Monterey Peninsula NAACP Branch's highest award, The President's Award. This award is being presented to Mr. Watson for his lengthy and outstanding service, dedication and contributions to the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP.

Mr. Watson was born July 21, 1944, in Wilcox County, the town of Camden, Alabama during the height of Jim Crow segregation. The degradation that African Americans underwent during that period left an indelible imprint on Joe's life, resulting in a lifetime commitment for fighting for equal rights and social