

renaissance man in the field of athletics by lettering in every major sport for the Chaparrals. Mr. Whitfield's leadership and strong work ethic is legendary in the Aubrey community. Excellence and devotion are the standards by which this young man lives by. In addition to his many athletic talents, Mr. Whitfield claimed further notoriety by creating a video at the request of the Aubrey Police Department to warn kids of the dangers of drunk driving on prom night.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission was also very impressed with Mr. Whitfield's work and has since used the video as part of its "Shattered Dreams" campaign in schools around the state. This video should indeed go a long way to warn others of the critical dangers of drunk driving. As he graduates, the impact that Mr. Whitfield has left behind will be felt at Aubrey High School and the Aubrey community for years to come.

I believe that Ricky Whitfield's professionalism should be emulated and his service honored here today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. He is indeed a young man of all trades and I am proud to represent such a person in my district.

CONGRATULATING MR. FRED
TAUL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE TO
REGIONS BANK

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Fred Taul on the occasion of his retirement from Regions Bank after nearly 40 years of service.

Shortly after graduating from The University of Alabama, Fred began his long and distinguished career in banking with Merchant's National Bank. He remained with the bank, now known as Regions Financial Corporation, for 38 years holding many positions of responsibility while working his way up to local president.

In the midst of his demanding professional schedule, Fred always found time to make Mobile and southwest Alabama a better place to live and work. Among the many groups and organizations that he lent his time and considerable talents, Fred served as chairman of the United Way of Southwest Alabama's 2004 campaign, and he is an active member of Board of Trustees for the Mobile Arts and Sports Association.

On behalf of Regions Bank, Fred was also instrumental in building a tremendous amount of community support for the protection and preservation of the Battleship USS *Alabama*. In no small part due to Fred's leadership, the USS *Alabama* Memorial Park Capital Campaign got off to a strong start.

There are many more people in life who like to talk about what can be done to make their community a better place than there are people who are willing to actually roll up their shirt sleeves and go to work to help make it a better place. Mobile is indeed fortunate that Fred Taul is one of those individuals who always believes in getting the job done. He is an outstanding example to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Fred Taul for his many contributions to banking as well as to the Mobile community. South Alabama is a better place because of people like Fred.

As he now faces a challenge unlike any other, I hope Fred knows that his colleagues at the bank and his friends throughout the country are keeping him and his family foremost in our thoughts and prayers.

THE RETIREMENT OF MAYOR
CESAR GONZALEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Cesar Gonzalez, Mayor of the City of San Benito, for his many years of dedicated service to the South Texas community. His extensive efforts and accomplishments throughout his career as a public servant have impacted both the city and people of San Benito.

Mayor Cesar Gonzalez's leadership and involvement in the lives of South Texans has earned him the reputation of being a devoted family man and hardworking businessman. His commitment to the prosperity and development of the City of San Benito and the State of Texas underscores his unwavering community spirit.

Mayor Gonzalez's first service to our country was in the United States Air Force. He went on to serve as a livestock inspector with the U.S. Government. Both positions were only stepping stones leading to a prolific and remarkable public career.

At the local level, Mayor Gonzalez helped form the first San Benito Boy's and Girl's Club as well as in the establishment of the Cameron County Livestock Show. He also served as president of the San Benito Quarterback Club, served as a Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts of America, and remained a longtime affiliate of the San Benito Chamber of Commerce.

He extended his public service efforts throughout the Rio Grande Valley serving as president of the Lower Rio Grande Development Council, secretary-treasurer to the Lower Rio Grande Development Economic Authority, Vice President of the Lower Rio Grande Certified Corporation, and as Industrial Developer of the Year.

Mayor Gonzalez's public participation has stretched beyond the local scope of his close-knit community to the entire Texas population. His positions include: Chairman of the Texas Municipal League Insurance Board, Chairman of the Texas Department of Human Resources, Chairman of Border Cities and Counties and as President of the Mayor's Association of the State of Texas.

These distinguished positions illustrate his lifetime of service, both to South Texas and to the State of Texas, yet they do not speak to his kind heart and charming ways. He is an exceptional human being who is much beloved in South Texas.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in celebrating the life of service of an outstanding public official. Mr. Speaker, the Mayor Cesar Gonzalez's three years as City Commissioner, astounding 22 years as Mayor

of the City of San Benito, and lifetime of public service are a source of Texas pride.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
ROSE-MARIE COGGS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved member of the Milwaukee community, Ms. Rose-Marie Cogg's.

The daughter of Calvin Jr. and Erma L. Cogg's, Rose-Marie was born in Milwaukee on May 26, 1953. As a child, she was a student at Fifth Street Grade School, Robert Fulton Junior High School, and graduated from Rufus King High School. In addition, she graduated from Milwaukee Area Technical College in its metallurgist program.

Rose-Marie displayed her significant artistic talents in drawing and painting and exhibited her works in Milwaukee art showings. In addition she was known as an accomplished jewelry designer with a particular gift for watches and rings, of which she produced beautiful collections. An award-winning artist, she often featured in showings at the Inner City Arts Council and African World Festival and in fact, her work was a regular feature in art festivals throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

Rose-Marie Cogg's was a woman of many creative talents and interests, from modeling for the African World Center with the Bashir Family to antiquing as a licensed antique dealer and appraiser who traveled throughout Wisconsin and Illinois participating in shows and fairs. She worked in the hospitality arena at various locations, was employed at OIC-GM as a receptionist, and worked as a Community Organizer for Project Respect.

Rose-Marie prided herself in being a mother to her only child, son Ayinde J. Cogg's. She was also blessed in having thirteen grandchildren: Ayinde Starling, Raymond Quesada, Ayana Cogg's, Nielah Cogg's, Ayinde Sprewell, Deonte Sprewell, Amber Cogg's, Adanna Cogg's, Brittney Harris, Angel Johnson, Lyric Elvord, Amani Carter and Naomi Noble. She was an extremely giving person who loved celebrating family events and faithfully remembered others' birthdays.

Mr. Speaker, so many of us in the Milwaukee community are saddened at losing her suddenly and much too soon. My thoughts and prayers are with her friends and loving family at this time, and I ask my colleagues in the House to join me today in remembering her life and many contributions to our community.

CONGRATULATING KAWNEER COMPANY AS IT CELEBRATES 100
YEARS OF BUSINESS GROWTH

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the

Kawneer Company which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on May 5 at its facility in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

Founded by Francis J. Plym, an architect, in 1906 in Kansas City, Missouri, the Kawneer Company distinguished itself in the field of architectural products, earning more than 400 patents in the past century.

Between 1910 and 1920, Kawneer developed the first metal air frame sections used in American aircraft, an achievement that earned the company a commendation from the U.S. War Department.

Between 1920 and 1930, Kawneer became the first manufacturer to incorporate lightweight, strong, economical aluminum in architectural products including ornate grills and soffits.

From 1930 to 1940, nearly 75 percent of Kawneer's business centered on aluminum, and Kawneer became the largest American user of aluminum for architectural purposes.

Months after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, every inch of the Kawneer plant was devoted to making airplane parts. American soldiers flew into battle supported by Kawneer rib assemblies, fuel tank supports, flap controls and many other aviation components.

For the past half century, Kawneer has been in the vanguard of architectural innovation, especially with regard to large commercial window applications.

In the future, Kawneer intends to commit itself to developing sustainable environmental solutions, such as the Kawneer Power Wall, the first proven integrated photovoltaic curtain wall system designed to control the sun in large commercial buildings.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Kawneer Company, which employs 400 people in its Bloomsburg facility. Its impressive sales performance over the past 2 years saw gross sales double from \$51 to \$100 million. Clearly, Kawneer is an important part of northeastern Pennsylvania's economy and we wish them every success in the future.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2830, PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Mr. MILLER's motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 2830, the so-called Pension Security and Transparency Act.

I opposed the Republican pension legislation that passed this body late last year because it will erode an employer's willingness to provide defined benefit plans and will close the loopholes that allow companies to dump their pension obligations onto taxpayers.

In addition to these effects, it offers insufficient protections to loyal workers and gives special treatment to executives for their compensation and pension packages. It is this specific problem that we are addressing today.

ExxonMobil's outgoing CEO, R. Lee Raymond recently secured a total retirement package valued at \$400 million, including a \$98 million windfall in the form of a lump sum pension payment. This is just one more example

of huge executive compensation at the same time that workers are losing their retirement security and earned and needed benefits.

Under the House Republican pension legislation passed last year, if an employer allows a pension plan to become less than 80 percent funded, the covered workers cannot receive benefit increases, cost of living adjustments, or lump sum pension payments. The legislation holds executives to a different, and much cushier, standard. Executives can continue to pad their own compensation packages with corporate assets until plan funding drops below 60 percent.

We must establish fairness in the pension process and level the playing field so that CEOs and workers are subject to the same benefit rules. This motion would accomplish that goal, instructing conferees to apply the same benefit restrictions for workers and retirees, and CEOs. This is a vital step that we can take to restore a vital sense of fairness to the compensation and pension process.

I encourage my colleagues to support this motion.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT LEA MILLS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Marine Sergeant Lea Mills of Masaryktown, Florida was killed by a terrorist IED explosion last week while on patrol in Iraq. Sergeant Mills was 21 years old, and leaves behind a young wife and a grieving family.

Dedicated to serving his country, Sergeant Mills joined the Marines following his graduation from Hernando High School in 2002. Lea felt that the Marines would give him the best opportunity to serve his Nation on the front lines and make a difference in people's lives.

When I spoke to Sergeant Mills' father Rob, he told me that Lea was inspired to volunteer for the military after the September 11 attacks.

Not only did Sergeant Mills request to be sent to Iraq, but he also felt that it was his duty as a Marine and that it was the right thing to do for his country.

A dedicated soldier, Sergeant Mills understood what the Marines' mission was in Iraq. As his father Rob said to me, "He believed very strongly in what he was doing." In fact, Lea had recently just re-upped for a second stint with the Marines.

Sergeant Mills leaves behind his wife Keesha Malicoate, his parents Dee and Rob Mills, and his brother Parker Mills.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Sergeant Lea Mills who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

While brave men and women like Lea have perished in the cause of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget their sacrifice and commitment.

CELEBRATING PROGRESS IN THE U.S. MOX PROGRAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2000, the United States and Russia agreed to dispose of surplus, weapon-grade plutonium by turning it into MOX fuel for use in existing, commercial nuclear reactors. South Carolina was thrilled when its Savannah River site was chosen to fulfill this important mission.

While the United States has initiated its responsibilities, Russia's program has not proceeded as quickly. Yesterday, I offered an amendment to ensure that the pace of the Russia MOX program will not dictate the progress of the U.S. MOX program. The amendment also restores \$34.7 million in funding for the construction of the MOX facility at SRS.

By passing my amendment, my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee have helped create hundreds of jobs in South Carolina and guarantee that our state will not become the permanent resting place for tons of plutonium. I will continue to work with my directly affected colleagues GRESHAM BARNETT, and CHARLIE NORWOOD to support the Savannah River site as it moves forward with this important mission.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL YVONNE J. PRETTYMAN-BECK, COMMANDER OF THE NORFOLK ENGINEER DISTRICT, NORFOLK CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VIRGINIA FOR HER SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, Commander and Norfolk District Engineer, for her loyal service to the United States Corps of Engineers and to the people of Virginia's Fourth District.

Over the past 3 years, I have had the fortunate opportunity to work with Colonel Prettyman-Beck on numerous occasions. I commend her leadership in advancing the growth and preservation of numerous projects of great value in our district and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Her hard work and integrity will be greatly missed upon her reassignment from the Norfolk District post she has held since August 2003.

With over 24 years of service in the U.S. Army, Colonel Prettyman-Beck's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession. Following graduation from the New Mexico Military Institute, she went on to obtain a Master of Science degree in Management Science and a Master of Science degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. She has served on numerous assignments throughout the U.S. and overseas. Her military education is extensive and includes