

Alabama history. She was born in Birmingham, growing up in a family compound of four houses that included the homes of her grandparents and great-grandparents near Oak Hill Cemetery. World War II was the formative event of her childhood and kindled her love of history, her country, and her state.

In high school and college, she was a competitive water skier. In 1953 she won both the U.S. Women's Overall National Championship and the Women's Overall World Championship. She was the first woman senior judge of the American Water Ski Association, and the first woman AWSA board member. In 1976, she was the first woman inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

Atkins holds three degrees from Auburn University, receiving her doctorate in history in 1974, the first time a Ph.D. in history was awarded at AU. She taught history at Auburn, briefly at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and at Samford University, where in 1984 she became the founding director of the Samford London Study Centre. The next year she became the founding director of the Auburn University Center for the Arts and Humanities (now the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center), which she directed for a decade, bringing university scholars and citizens together to explore the ideas and experiences that inform the human condition, connecting the local to the universal, and providing an opportunity for learning and dialogue.

Atkins is a longtime member, former president, and for 15 years served as secretary of the Alabama Historical Association.

She was a founding board member of the Friends of the Alabama Archives, the editor of the Friends' first newsletter, and is on the board of the Alabama Archives and History Foundation. She has published many articles and books on Alabama history, including a study of the admission of women to Auburn University and the University of Alabama, a history of Birmingham and Jefferson County, and a biography of builder John M. Harbert III. She is also author of a corporate history of Brasfield & Gorrie and, most recently, of a history of Alabama Power Company which won the 2007 James Sulzby Book Award for the best book on Alabama history. She is a co-author of the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Alabama: History of a Deep South State*, which also won the Sulzby Award.

She and her husband, George, have been married for 54 years and have four children and 13 grandchildren.

Leah Atkins is an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to education. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating her on this remarkable achievement. I know her husband, George, her family, and many friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the years on behalf of the State of Alabama.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, on rollcall vote 856, the Westmoreland amendment to H.R. 2786, please accept my apologies as I was unavoidably detained and was not able to cast my vote in the allotted time. It was my intention to vote "yes" on this amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE AT MCGHEE TYSON AIRPORT

#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a piece of history in the Second District of Tennessee.

For the past 50 years, as people flew into my district, they weren't just landing in Knoxville but also touching down at a historic Tennessee Air National Guard Base.

Military planes taking off from that runway have been a part of some of the noblest causes of modern times, from the Berlin Air Lift to Operation Enduring Freedom.

It's a history of service that exemplifies the spirit that gave Tennessee the nickname of the Volunteer State, and once again the Knoxville community is at the forefront of that service.

The base is now celebrating 50 years of operations, and it is currently the proud home of the 134th Refueling Wing, as well as the 228th Combat Communications Squadron, the 119th Command and Control Squadron, the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center, the Academy of Innovative Ministries, and the 572nd Air Force Band.

It's not just the longevity of the base that is so remarkable, but also the quality of the men and women who serve there. The 134th has been consistently ranked nationally for its superb performance.

I would like to congratulate the nearly 2,000 full-time military and civilian personnel at the base and the many thousands more who pass through the facility each year for training. Their professionalism makes us proud.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute the 50th anniversary of the Air National Guard Base at McGhee Tyson Airport in Blount County, Tennessee. I know the facility and the men and women who operate it will play an important part in protecting our Nation for decades to come.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ST. ROBERT BELLARMINA CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to St. Robert Bellarmine Church upon the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

The church was founded as Holy Trinity Parish in 1907 by Father Edward Wright. In 1939, the church was remodeled and given its present name. The choice of 17th century Italian cardinal St. Robert Bellarmine as patron saint reflects the church's modern-day identity as a spiritual, educational and charitable institution. St. Robert Bellarmine embodied an ideal blend of spirituality, intellect, public service and charity. He would certainly be proud of Burbank's St. Robert Bellarmine Church, which throughout its 100 years has dem-

onstrated a passionate commitment to these same ideals.

Today, St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church serves the spiritual, educational, and charitable needs of its community. Its elementary school, as well as Bellarmine Jefferson High School, offers a Christ-centered learning environment with a challenging curriculum that educates students both academically and morally, preparing them for a lifetime of service to both God and their communities.

In addition, St. Robert Bellarmine sponsors and facilitates service-oriented groups that serve the homeless, the sick, and others in need in the Burbank community and beyond by actively engaging in food drives and raising charitable funds. Many leaders of St. Robert Bellarmine have used their leadership as a means for serving the community. Monsignor Martin Cody Keating, for example, served the church for 37 years after his work as an Army chaplain in World War I. During his priesthood, he worked as an advocate for labor and war veterans' issues. The current Priests and staff continue this legacy of public service today.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring St. Robert Bellarmine Church upon the celebration of its 100th anniversary. The entire community joins me in thanking the parishioners of St. Robert Bellarmine Church for their religious, educational, and charitable contributions to California's 29th Congressional District.

#### CONGRATULATING JAMES I. HARRISON JR. ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE ALABAMA ACADEMY OF HONOR

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor James I. Harrison Jr., on the occasion of his induction into the Alabama Academy of Honor.

Jimmy Harrison is one of the most influential men in the drug store business not only in Alabama but throughout the United States. He was a star on both the basketball court and on the baseball field at the University of Alabama, but he is an even better businessman and pharmacist. His success in the board room is only exceeded by his generosity and charitable spirit. His lifetime of service to his community and support of education have added in an immeasurable way to the well-being of our state.

Created in 1965, the Alabama Academy of Honor was created to recognize living Alabamians for their accomplishments and service that greatly benefits or reflects credit on the state of Alabama. Ten members may be elected annually by the Academy of Honor with no greater than 100 living members at a time.

Madam Speaker, the following tribute was presented to James I. Harrison at his ceremony of induction into the Academy in 2007. With your permission, I would like to add this tribute to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

JAMES I. HARRISON JR.

James I. Harrison, Jr., was born in Tuscaloosa on July 11, 1932. He attended St. John's Parochial School in Tuscaloosa and was one of the four graduates of the school's last

class in 1949. After a post-graduate year at Chattanooga's Baylor School, he entered the University of Alabama where he played basketball and baseball. After two years, he transferred to Howard College (now Samford University) and graduated with honors from the School of Pharmacy.

His parents had purchased Central Drug Store in downtown Tuscaloosa and turned it into a success. When Harrison graduated from college, his father purchased another struggling drug store near the University of Alabama. Druid Drug became successful and famous as the favorite coffee hangout of Coach Bear Bryant and his staff. Three more Tuscaloosa stores were added over the next several years. In 1967, Harco, Inc., was founded. Harco, Inc., would eventually operate 153 Harco Drug stores, 55 Carport Auto Parts stores, and 7 Harco Totalcare (home healthcare) stores. The company was sold in 1997 to Rite Aid.

During Harrison's years as CEO of Harco, he served as chairman of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Affiliated Drug Stores, and the Southern Drug Store Association. Harco and Harrison received many national business and pharmacy industry honors and awards.

Harrison's charitable spirit and support of education have dynamically impacted his community and state. He established the James I. Harrison School of Pharmacy, Auburn University; the Harrison Center for Academic Excellence, Judson College; the James I. Harrison Family Endowed Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellow, University of Alabama; and the Caritas Community Service Award, University of Alabama. Harrison is a member and past chairman of the UA President's Cabinet. He is a founding member of Success by Six Educational Initiative in Tuscaloosa County; a founding member and first president of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society chapter supporting United Way of West Alabama; and a member of the Mayor's Pre-K Advisory Board, Tuscaloosa. He is a patron to Children's Hands-on Museum and to the UA Rural Infant Stimulation Environmental Center.

He holds honorary doctorates from the University of Alabama and Judson College, is in several business and civic halls of fame, and serves on many corporate and civic boards. Harrison and his wife, Peggy, have five children and fifteen grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to James I. Harrison, Jr. for his many personal and professional achievements and offer a heartfelt "thank you" for a job well done. I know his wife, Peggy, his family, and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years for the State of Alabama.

## THE GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2007*

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Science & Technology Committee for their efforts in bringing H.R. 2850, the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2007 to the House floor. This legislation is important and very necessary.

"Green chemistry and engineering" is the term used to describe the environmentally conscious design of chemical products and processes that are made safer to human health and the environment by reducing or eliminating the use or creation of hazardous and harmful substances.

Like many Americans, I am dedicated to reducing the causes and effects of global warming. Many of the solutions to global warming and other serious environmental problems need to be addressed at the molecular design level. This legislation does just that. It provides a path forward so that our chemists and engineers are able to conduct their work and research in an environmentally friendly manner.

This bill is also in alignment with the innovations legislation that was signed into law in August. It will help to sustain the United States' position as a global leader in the science and engineering fields and promote our ability to compete with other nations. The National Academies report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm", commissioned by the House Science & Technology Committee, points out the growing concern for America's ability to compete in today's global economy. H.R. 2850 supports innovation by:

Authorizing funding for green chemistry and engineering research;

Investing in young researchers;

Fostering collaborative R&D partnerships among our universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations;

Promoting education and training of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as professional chemists and chemical engineers;

Recognizing the value of the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships in the adoption of green chemistry and engineering innovations; and

Providing for much needed science research to identify barriers to commercialization of safer chemistry and engineering practices.

This legislation is supported by my constituents who are members of the Green Mountain American Chemical Society. This organization includes members from Vermont's universities and colleges, and from Vermont industries, such as IBM, BF Goodrich, Seventh Generation, and Biotek. Other supporters of H.R. 2850 include Vermont's Manufacturing Extension Partnerships and the Vermont Technology Council.

Vermont's business community is advocating "green chemistry and engineering" research. Vermont-based Seventh Generation Inc. is a leading nationwide distributor of environmentally sensitive household soaps, detergents, paper products and diapers. According to Jeff Hollender and Martin Wolfe at Seventh Generation, on the face of it, green chemistry is pretty basic: find ways to make non-toxic or less harmful chemical alternatives from non-toxic or less harmful raw materials using processes that don't create pollution, and manufacture goods using less water, energy, and other natural resources. While the concept is simple, the reality is far from it. However, instead of representing failure, the current lack of alternatives just means that a lot of work still needs to be done.

Educators in Vermont are also supportive of increasing resources for green chemistry research. Dr. Daniel Savin of the University of Vermont is doing critical green chemistry research on the development and use of biodegradable plastics that are derived from re-

newable biomass resources as an alternative to the traditional petroleum-based plastics, whose production results in harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Dr. Savin is investigating the extraction of the feedstock for a new plastics material from whey-protein, a natural byproduct of Vermont's very important cheese production. These plastics could be used in pest control applications, weed suppression, and water retention; reducing the use of harmful chemicals and the depletion of natural resources. This is just one example of the value of investing in green chemistry and engineering research.

H.R. 2850 represents an important investment in green chemistry and engineering research and education. I am pleased to support its passage and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST ERIC M. HOLKE, CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, California National Guardsman Eric Holke. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Eric grew up in Riverside and Crestline, California. He graduated from Rim of the World High School in 1995 and was interested in working with children. Before Eric was deployed in December, he worked with autistic children and was attending college in hopes of becoming a teacher. Specialist Holke had a strong sense of duty: he had served two tours previously, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. During his tour in Iraq he was injured but dedicated himself to getting better so that he could reenlist, which he did. Specialist Holke was called up in December 2006 and on July 15, 2007 he was killed in action in Iraq.

In reading about Eric's life, I was impressed by his devotion to family, friends and children. He is survived by his wife Cassidhe and son Steven. Our community has lost a great man and Cassidhe and Steven have lost a wonderful husband and father.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Eric, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Holke family had to lay Eric to rest was probably the hardest moment the family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Specialist Holke's wife, son, relatives and friends have given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that Specialist Holke, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will be remembered.