

with the establishment of 2 endowed scholarships in her name: the Jean O'Connor Leadership Scholarship and the Jean O'Connor-Snyder Endowed Scholarship.

She served as director of events and protocol and assistant director of development for the University of Alabama for over 9 years. She also served as director of community relations, employee development and special events for Bromberg Jewelers, assistant vice president of SouthTrust Bank, and executive director of the Alabama Jewelers Association. In 1993, she moved to Montgomery to be the executive assistant to the First Lady, mansion administrator, and chief of protocol for the Alabama Governor's office. In 1995, she returned to her private consulting business where she specialized in events management, public relations, and professional development training.

Jean was a president of the Tuscaloosa chapter of the University of Alabama National Alumni Association, and the National Alumni Association awarded her with the Distinguished Alumna Award in 1997. She was the volunteer coordinator with the University of Alabama Visual Program and former president of the Life Learning Initiative at Shelton State Community College. She served as the consultant who coordinated the first two Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame Galas for Shelton State Community College.

Her dedication did not stop there. Jean served as a deacon and Stephen Minister at First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, president of Tuscaloosa International Friends, board member to Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center, and the Chi Omega/House Corporation. She was a member of Rotary International Tuscaloosa Chapter, 2007 Leadership Scholarship Capstone Council, and received the Alabama Alumni Association's Award of Achievement.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Jean will be missed by her family—her 6 children, Frances O'Connor Morgan, William F. O'Connor, Jr., John Talty O'Connor, Julia Bradford O'Connor, Michael Brady O'Connor, and Patrick Shepherd O'Connor; her stepdaughter, Sharon Pilsch; nine grandchildren, Rosalyn Morgan Devine, Katherine Elizabeth O'Connor Heath, Anna Bradford O'Connor Norris, John Franklin Morgan III, Elizabeth Brady Morgan, Kelsey Cooper O'Connor, Kerri Cathleen O'Connor, Rosalind Brady O'Connor, and Victor Bradford O'Connor; 2 step-grandchildren, Erin Pilsch and Turner Pilsch; and several great-grandchildren—as well as the many countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS TO DEFEND EMPLOYERS' RIGHT TO EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution calling on Governor Rod Blagojevich to stop the state's upcoming prohibition on people from Illinois from using the

federal government's E-Verify web site to confirm immigration status for job applicants. The system is used in other states to quickly verify that new employees comply with U.S. law. Earlier this week, the Department of Justice, on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, brought suit in federal court to strike down the Blagojevich prohibition.

The E-Verify system was created as part of the "Basic Pilot Program" authorized by Congress in 1996 to help employers easily check immigration status for job applicants. The program was offered to the entire country in 2001 by a unanimous vote of the House. Governor Blagojevich was a member of the House in 2001 during the time of that unanimous vote.

The E-Verify system provides employers access to a web site to check on the legal or illegal status of a job applicant, usually within one day. The system approves over 91 percent of such applications. If an applicant disagrees with an E-Verify opinion, he can contest the "Tentative Non-Confirmation" within one week at a Social Security or Department of Homeland Security office. Federal law prohibits an employer from taking action against an employee until this dispute is resolved.

If an employee is officially "Non-Confirmed", the employer can still offer a job after adjusting the immigration status of the applicant or notifying the Department of Homeland Security. Over 22,000 American employers use the E-Verify system that has processed almost three million requests. More than 800 employers join this system each week.

While the federal government offered Americans the right to check on the immigration status of job applicants using the E-Verify system, this right will be denied to the people of Illinois by this new state law. Signed by the Governor in August, the Illinois law will deny all Illinois employers the right to use the federal E-Verify system after January 1. The Illinois law only allows access to E-Verify at some future date after state officials finds the system is 99 percent accurate. No other state denies the rights of its employers to use this federal program. Furthermore, the Illinois law clearly violates the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and supporting the right of employers to verify the immigration status of prospective employees.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Yvette Cade is an inspiring survivor of domestic violence. The justice system failed her. In 2005, Yvette sought protection from her estranged husband. Already a victim of domestic violence, Yvette had a restraining order against her estranged husband, but it was set to expire. Yvette turned to the courts for help. She personally asked District Judge Richard Palumbo to extend the restraining order. Judge Palumbo said no; he refused to extend the order. Judge Palumbo went so far as to make

fun of Yvette for seeking a protective order. When Yvette, who represented herself without a lawyer, told Palumbo that she wanted "an immediate, absolute divorce," Judge Palumbo replied, "I'd like to be six-foot-five, but that's not what we do here." Judge Palumbo likened other domestic violence victims to buses that come along every 10 minutes. Judge Palumbo then dismissed Yvette's assault case against her estranged husband. Two weeks later, Yvette's fears of further abuse were realized when her estranged husband walked into her workplace, doused her with gasoline, struck a match, and set her on fire.

Yvette Cade survived the third-degree burns across sixty-percent of her body. She underwent several surgeries and still has more surgeries in her future. As a victim, survivor, and advocate, Yvette Cade is an inspiring voice for all domestic violence victims. She is a reminder of the staggering statistics on domestic violence victims in America and the injustices that victims face on an all too-often basis.

Yvette Cade triumphed over tragedy. To recognize her remarkable spirit and advocacy work on behalf of other victims, the Victims' Rights Caucus awarded Yvette the Eva Murillo "Unsung Hero" Award in April.

Domestic violence victims need a voice so that they too can become survivors. That is why I sponsored H. Res. 590 to declare October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is appropriate that this House pass this legislation unanimously.

With more awareness of domestic violence, more action can be taken. We owe it to good people like Yvette Cade. And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, I was not present for votes as I was in Little Rock, Arkansas attending the 50th Anniversary commemorating the integration of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 895, H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 896, H. Res. 584, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 897, H. Con. Res. 210, Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 898, H. Res. 663, Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 899, H. Res. 548, Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 900, H. Res. 642, Expressing sympathy and support

for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 901, H. Res. 557, Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 902, H. Res. 675, Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 903, H. Res. 675, on the Previous Question on providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 976, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 904, H. Res. 675, on agreeing to the resolution, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 976, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 905, H. Res. 95, Campus Fire Safety Month, I would have voted "Aye."

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SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2007*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Representative ROSKAM for introducing H. Res. 605, in support of Gold Star Mothers. Gold Star Mothers is a tremendous organization that honors our nation's brave sons and daughters in the Armed Services that have made the ultimate sacrifice. Gold Star Mother's outreach and volunteer efforts help to bring comfort and solace to family members and loved ones during their time of need. My stepson Doug and his wife Lindsay continue to serve overseas in the Marines so I greatly appreciate the support and devotion the Gold Star Mothers have for our Armed Forces and Veterans. I am also proud to have Georgianna C. Krell, a past and future National President of Gold Star Mothers from my Congressional District. Georgianna's son PFC Bruce Carter was killed defending our nation on August 7th 1969 in Vietnam. Private Carter was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in battle. It is with great pleasure that I have been working with Georgianna to have our local VA hospital in Miami renamed after her son and I look forward to my continued relationship with Georgianna and Gold Star Mothers to honor our nation's heroes.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RICHARD S. ARNOLD

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan and a fine American, Judge Richard S. Arnold. I'm proud to recognize Judge Arnold in the United States Congress for his years of service as a legal scholar. His carefully reasoned and articulate opinions set new standards in the legal profession. Although Judge Arnold rose to one of the highest levels of his profession, he always maintained a sense of grace and humility that was admired by all.

Judge Arnold received his bachelor's degree summa cum laude from Yale and later graduated magna cum laude and first in his class from Harvard Law School. In addition to serving as a clerk to Justice William Brennan at the U.S. Supreme Court, Arnold served as a legislative assistant to Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas and was eventually appointed Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. He was appointed to the Eighth Circuit in 1980 and finally Chief Judge on January 8, 1992 where he served until his untimely death.

According to his colleagues, Judge Arnold's intellect was unmatched and his compassion for others is a trait that is rarely found today. He was respected for his continual search for truth and justice that he applied to each of his opinions, which are often used today as models for judging. He worked tirelessly to improve the judiciary and supported efforts to help other judges across the nation improve their skills and in turn the legal profession.

Judge Richard Arnold has been recognized by the dedication of the United States Courthouse in Little Rock, AK where his life and his work can continue to be remembered. He was a fine Arkansan and a fine American and will be greatly missed by all.

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IN MEMORY OF A GOOD AND DECENT MAN, MAYER MITCHELL

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to announce to the House that a friend to many in this chamber—and throughout this city—Mayer Mitchell of Mobile—passed away yesterday morning at home with his family by his side.

In recent weeks, it became apparent that Mayer was involved in a battle unlike any he had ever faced. And yet, knowing that Mayer had that 'never-say-quit' spirit, it would not have surprised any of us had he been able to scale just one more mountain along life's journey.

Sadly, however, that was simply not meant to be, and Mayer's passing leaves a void that will be felt throughout our community, state and nation.

No tribute to Mayer could begin without offering our heartfelt sympathies to his wonderful family. Above all else, Mayer was truly a

family man . . . he loved his family and included them in almost all that he did and all for which he stood.

To his loving wife of 54 years, Arlene, their four children, Richard, Melinda, Joy and Lisa, their eight grandchildren, and to his brother, Abe, the people of south Alabama offer our deepest sympathies to you over your loss. At the same time, we offer our profound gratitude to you for sharing your wonderful husband, father, grandfather and brother with all of us.

Mayer Mitchell had a truly wonderful and amazing life, a life filled with exemplary philanthropic service that is unrivaled in the city of Mobile and perhaps the state of Alabama, but also, in a very real way, he was a man who enriched the lives of all who came in contact with him over the years.

Mayer, known to his close friends and family as "Bubba," was truly many things to many people.

As a businessman, Mayer was the consummate professional, always driven by a desire to be successful in whatever opportunity was presented. He often defined success as being centered on respect, trust and mutual understanding.

He was motivated by a personal philosophy of "the harder you work, the luckier you get," and that's just what Mayer did. Along with his brother Abe, they founded The Mitchell Company, a residential and commercial real estate development firm in 1958. Their company built single family homes and apartments as well as shopping centers. Not surprisingly, the firm grew rapidly and soon became one of the largest in the southeast.

Mayer and Abe sold their interest in the company in 1986 at which time the firm was responsible for 25,000 single family homes, 20,000 apartments and 175 shopping centers. Even today, The Mitchell Company remains the largest private firm in Mobile and among the top 40 in the state of Alabama. After selling the family business, Mayer spent the second half of his business life managing his investments through his company, MBI, L.L.C. Rather than retire at the young age of 53 simply to live on his successes, Mayer put his heart and soul in support of his family, his faith and his community. He followed the example set by his parents' commitment to philanthropy explained by one of his favorite Jewish proverbs, "Give when you're living, and it's gold. When you give when you're dead, it's lead."

A lifelong proponent of education, Mayer served more than 32 years on the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees, including a term as chairman. He was particularly supportive of USA's medical, business and sports programs, but to say his giving touched every aspect of the University would be a considerable understatement.

At the time of his death, Mayer and his family had given more than \$36 million to the University of South Alabama. As a result of his leadership, several key landmarks on campus today proudly bear the Mitchell name, including USA's Mitchell College of Business and the Mitchell Center sports arena, the finest facility of its kind in the state of Alabama.

Mayer and Abe also gave generously to create the University's business learning resource center, named in honor of their parents, Joseph and Rebecca Mitchell.

But as committed to education as he was, Mayer was also a tireless advocate for quality