

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."

## 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.

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

health care and, not surprisingly, he left his indelible mark in this arena as well.

Madam Speaker, at the age of 36, Mayer was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. After seeking successful experimental cancer treatments in New York, Mayer vowed that Mobile would one day have its own world-class cancer center.

And today, because of Mayer's vision and generosity—and that of the entire Mitchell family—the University of South Alabama, in alliance with the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, is now home to a state-of-the-art cancer research institute, appropriately named the Mitchell Cancer Institute.

All in all, the Mitchell family holds the distinction of having given more to a single public university than any other family in the history of the state of Alabama.

Without a doubt, Mayer's philanthropy and leadership was legendary and recognized around the country and across the globe. When Mayer's name was on an invitation, a project or a cause, you knew with it came his own personal "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval." And if Mayer was on your side, you never, ever had to go back to him and ask if he was truly committed. Mayer's word was golden.

Mayer Mitchell was awarded the University of South Alabama National Alumni Associations' Distinguished Service Award in 2006. Other honors included: Outstanding Young Men of America; Jewish Welfare Fund Man of the Year; Prichard Honorary Citizen of the Year; Mobile County Realtor of the Year; and high honors from the Boy's Club of Mobile, Bishop State Community College; University of Rochester, New Orleans Chapter of Hadasah, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Mobile Kiwanis Club and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. In 2006, The University of Alabama inducted Mayer into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Clearly, Mayer's involvement was not just at the local and state level, but at the national level as well. He was a longtime political activist and a passionate supporter for Israel. He served on the national board of directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, for over two decades, serving as president of the board from 1990–1992 and as chairman of the board from 1992–1996. He devoted much time to Camp Ramah Darom, a summer camp for Jewish youth in northeast Georgia, and Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, which awarded him an honorary doctorate.

A graduate from Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance in 1953, Mayer also served in the Army as a first lieutenant in the Korean War, where he earned a commendation ribbon with medal pendant for meritorious service.

Madam Speaker, Psalms 24:2 calls to question, "Who will ascend the mountain of the Lord and who will stand in his place of sanctity? One with clean hands and a pure heart."

Let there be no doubt, Mayer Mitchell's manner and goodness truly lived up to that expectation. And for all who truly knew Mayer—and appreciated him for all he was and all he did—we can all take some comfort in knowing that in life, Mayer definitely made a difference. Even in death, his legacy will last for generations.

More than 60 years ago, a young girl wrote a diary that opened the world's eyes to the

horrors of evil and hatred. Even today, Anne Frank remains an inspiration for her simple eloquence and powerful choice of words.

One of my favorite Anne Frank quotes seems to be a fitting epithet for my dear friend, Mayer. She wrote, "How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Madam Speaker, Mayer Mitchell did just that. He waited for no one to tell him what needed to be done; he simply went out, in his own special way, and sewed seeds of hope one good deed at a time.

While it is true that the good works of Mayer Mitchell could fill an entire volume in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, on this day when his family and friends mourn his death, I simply ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a good and decent man, Mayer Mitchell. May he rest in peace.

---

TRIBUTE TO MINNIE VAUTRIN,  
"AMERICAN GODDESS OF MERCY"

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Minnie Vautrin, an American woman and missionary whose heroism changed the course of history during World War II.

Japan's violent occupation of then-capital Nanking, China, historically known as the Rape of Nanking, claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent Chinese men, women and children and left its mark on history as one of the most brutal massacres and crimes against humanity of the 20th Century. An estimated 300,000 Chinese civilians were killed, and an estimated 20,000 women were raped, with some estimates as high as 80,000.

Minnie Vautrin, a missionary who worked at a women's college in Nanking, courageously stood against the Japanese Imperial Army. A native of Illinois, she was one of the few Americans in the region when the Japanese army invaded Nanking.

By using the American flag and proclamations issued by the American Embassy in China maintaining the college as a sanctuary, Minnie helped repel incursions into the college, where thousands of women and children sought protection from the Japanese army. She often risked her own life to defend the lives of thousands of Chinese civilians.

Her devotion during this horrific event earned her the nickname "American Goddess of Mercy" among the people of Nanking, where she is fondly remembered. Her heroic actions and unparalleled efforts to save lives deserve to be recognized. Sadly, her story is relatively unknown.

Today, on the 121st anniversary of her birth, I would like to honor Ms. Vautrin for her sacrifice, courage, humanity, and commitment to peace and justice during the violent Rape of Nanking. Minnie Vautrin's story defines patriotism and heroism in the midst of war.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining me in remembering this phenomenal yet unsung heroine. To the thousands of innocent men, women and children whose lives were spared because of Minnie Vautrin's bold courage, she will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF KATHERINE BROWN

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Katherine Brown for her service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, D.C., office.

When Katie came to Capitol Hill from Galatin, Tennessee, earlier this year, she quickly proved to be an able researcher, a strong writer and a hard worker. While she has been with the office only a short time, her diligence and persistence have helped me do my job better.

But love and law school are now calling her home. Today is her last day in the office as Katie is moving back to Middle Tennessee to be with her fiancé, Taylor, while she prepares for law school.

My staff and I are sad to see her leave, but we share her excitement for this new chapter in her life. Katie, I thank you for all your help, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

---

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NABVETS

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS) and offer my salutation to those members attending their Regional Convention in Denver Colorado this November. NABVETS has representatives in several states across the western United States, including my home state of Colorado. It is with the utmost sincerity that I wish this gathering success in discerning avenues to uphold and meet their organizational mission.

Since its founding in 1969, NABVETS has made great strides in community development and advocacy by providing a myriad of services including empowerment of low-income and minority veterans and historical perseverance.

NABVETS has provided support to Colorado communities over the years, and I am proud to support its continued efforts to assist Colorado's veterans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking them for their efforts, and conveying my best wishes for the convention.

---

CONGRATULATING MR. GRANT  
SIMPSON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Grant Simpson, a Hidden Lakes Elementary School teacher in Keller, Texas, for being named Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year.