

known authority on paper-making technology, Barbara H. Wortley.

Mrs. Wortley of Fort Lauderdale, FL, passed away on November 25 in Washington, DC surrounded by her loving family. The wife of former Congressman George C. Wortley, she conducted innovative research in paper-making techniques for more than 40 years.

Barbara was the first woman graduate of the SUNY College of Forestry with a pulp and paper specialty. She was an honors forestry graduate and also received a cum laude degree in chemistry from Syracuse University in 1948.

She was senior technical manager for Allied Chemical in Solvay, NY, later Allied Signal and then General Chemical. Her work took her to countries around the world to solve technical problems in paper mills.

Numerous organizations awarded Barbara for her achievements. The Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, TAPPI, awarded her for many years of contributions to the organization. Barbara wrote more than 30 technical papers, contributed regularly to professional journals, organized seminars and was a member of TAPPI for more than 40 years.

Barbara served on several Central New York foundations and associations. She was a past president of the Zonta Club of Syracuse, NY, an international professional women's organization; a former member of the CNY Epilepsy Foundation; and a former member of the New York State Women's Advisory Council. For her many contributions, she was a Syracuse Post-Standard Woman of Achievement for Science.

She is survived by her loving husband, George C. Wortley, and their children, son George, daughters Ann and Elizabeth, daughter-in-law Susan, sons-in-law Frank and John, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

For her contributions to paper-making technology and to the greater Central New York community, I honor my dear friend Barbara H. Wortley for her lifetime of accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH COLLINS,
CHIEF ECONOMIST, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Dr. Keith Collins who has served with distinction as the Chief Economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for almost 14 years. At the end of this year Keith will retire, and he will be missed, not only by his colleagues at USDA but by all of us who came to respect and rely on his nonpartisan, thoughtful and detailed analysis of economic issues in agriculture.

Keith began his career as an economist with USDA in 1977, and his tenure there has spanned four presidencies of both political parties. He has served under nine Secretaries of Agriculture.

In 1994, Keith was named Chief Economist at USDA, and in that capacity he has been responsible for economic forecasts and projec-

tions and has advised the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic implications of alternative programs, regulations and legislative proposals. His advice has not been limited to the Secretary either; he has become a valued advisor to Members of Congress and others involved in agriculture policy.

On highly charged political issues, Keith is known for his honesty, competency and influence. Even when facing tough questions from Members of Congress, nothing seems to rattle Keith's calm, rational demeanor.

Keith has also earned the respect of his peers in the field of agricultural economics. Keith is a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, which is the highest honor the agricultural economics profession can bestow.

One economist who worked with Keith over the years measured the potential success for newly appointed Secretaries of Agriculture using what he called the "Keith Collins intelligence test." If the new Secretaries re-appointed Keith as Chief Economist, they passed.

Keith's colleagues at USDA have also recognized his outstanding contributions. He received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 1990 and 1996 and the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executive in 1992, the highest award a Federal executive can receive.

Madam Speaker, Keith's retirement is a real loss for American agriculture. Through his service at USDA, he has influenced agriculture policy in many positive and lasting ways. His work truly has touched the lives of many Americans, especially our Nation's farmers and ranchers.

On behalf of the House Agriculture Committee, I extend to Keith our deepest appreciation for his service to American agriculture and wish him great happiness in retirement.

RECOGNITION OF HANDLEY HIGH
SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL
TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize today the players and coaches of the Handley High School varsity football team from Randolph County in Alabama's Third Congressional District.

These talented young athletes recently won the 4A Regional Championship, and in doing so, became a great source of pride by their community. These young people worked tirelessly to earn this great honor, and brought together young and old fans across Randolph County to cheer the Handley Tigers on.

I am proud to acknowledge and congratulate the Handley High School varsity football team of 2007 in the House today, and extend my most heartfelt congratulations to these talented young people for their significant accomplishment.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Energy Independence and Security Act. With this legislation, the new Democratic Congress is leading America in a new direction on energy policy.

This is the most significant energy bill in a generation. The House is taking a major step toward ending our dependence on foreign oil by increasing efficiency standards for cars and trucks for the first time in over 30 years. This will reduce America's need for oil by 1.1 million gallons per day, cut emissions almost 27 million tons per year, and save Minnesota families up to \$1,000 every year.

The Energy Independence and Security Act is Congress's most serious effort to combat global climate change to date. The bill includes the first ever national Renewable Energy Standard requiring utilities to generate at least 15 percent of the electricity we use from renewable sources, including wind, solar, biomass and geothermal sources. In addition, it also implements landmark energy efficiency standards for appliances, lighting, and buildings, which will significantly reduce our emissions, while saving American families and businesses billions of dollars in unnecessary energy costs.

By setting new priorities, the House can do all this while also cutting costs for consumers and creating millions of new high-paying, high-skill "green" jobs. This legislation repeals \$21 billion in taxpayer subsidies for highly profitable oil and gas companies and redirects these needed resources into developing America's new clean energy economy. This money will be invested in research and development so that American auto makers will produce the next generation of hybrid and electric cars. It will allow 3 million Americans to receive job training for new green jobs, and provide assistance for small businesses to reap the benefits of this growing industry. It will ensure that power plants become cleaner through tax credits for investments in clean power and the long overdue implementation of carbon capture and sequestration technologies. Moreover, Minnesota farmers will benefit from its historic commitment to homegrown biofuels—replacing Middle East crude with Midwest crops.

It is time to make America more secure, more prosperous and more environmentally sustainable. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a new direction in energy policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted on December 11, 2007, due to inclement weather grounding flights from Wisconsin. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 1142 through 1144.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

‘Aye’ on rollcall vote 1142—H. Res. 842, Expressing sympathy to and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh.

‘Aye’ on rollcall vote 1143—H. Res. 847, Recognizing the importance of Christmas.

‘Aye’ on rollcall vote 1144—H.R. 4343, The Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act.

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL CONNORS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Ethel Connors, manager of United Trust & Savings Bank in Dougherty, IA, after serving her community for over 58 years.

In 1944, Ethel returned to Dougherty to be closer to her mother after her father died, leaving her position as a private secretary to Ward Hamilton at Hamilton Business College in Mason City, IA. Shortly after she began working at the United Trust & Savings Bank she took over as manager. At 90 years of age, Ethel has become a town institution, serving not just as the bank manager, but the unofficial town historian as well.

Ethel Connors has left a permanent mark on the city of Dougherty and the surrounding region and will be truly missed at the United Trust & Savings Bank. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Ethel for her leadership and service to the community of Dougherty and congratulating her on her retirement. I consider it an honor to represent Ethel in Congress, and I wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement as she continues to play an integral role in her community.

IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3541, the Do Not Call Improvement Act. The legislation is simply very straightforward and I believe merits the support of all Members.

The bill removes the requirement for the Federal Trade Commission to remove consumers' phone numbers from the Registry. The original rules for the Registry required consumers to re-register their phone number every 5 years. This was intended to keep the list accurate over the years as numbers were disconnected and reassigned to new customers. The rules as they currently are would result in many millions of Americans being removed from the Do-Not-Call list each year, whether they like it or not. The bill before us changes these rules by requiring that numbers on the Registry remain there, so that people's

dinners don't start getting interrupted by telemarketers all of a sudden. At the same time, we direct the FTC to keep the list accurate by periodically “scrubbing” the list of invalid and disconnected numbers. I think this strikes the right balance for consumers and the industry. I urge support for the bill.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS TOWN

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the founding of Father Flanagan's Boys Town 90 years ago today in Omaha, NE. Father Flanagan came to Omaha as a frail Catholic priest determined to make a difference and he found his calling in caring for, educating and housing orphaned boys. Father Flanagan's attitude can best be summed up by his famous aphorism “there are no bad children.” He firmly believed this and it became the basis of the work of Boys Town.

Another aphorism attributed to the children of Boys Town is: “He ain't heavy Father, he's m'brother.” This simple statement encompasses what we all know—that with help from our peers and our Creator we can bear any burden to help those in need.

The difference Father Flanagan made in the lives of young people resonates to this day. Because of Father Flanagan's commitment to improving the lives of children, Boys Town now assists homeless or at-risk children in 14 States as well as the District of Columbia. In fact, last year approximately 450,000 children and families found help through Boys Town National Hotline. This number includes 34,000 calls from youth where hotline staff intervened to save a life or provide counseling. These numbers are truly impressive for one organization.

Father Flanagan's work even led to the production of the movie Boys Town starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney, for which Spencer Tracy earned the Academy Award. Using the fame generated by the Academy Award winning movie, Father Flanagan expanded his work on the welfare of children beyond the United States and traveled to Japan and Korea in 1947 to study child welfare problems. He made a similar trip to Austria and Germany, and while in Germany he died on May 15, 1948 of a heart attack. He was buried in the Dowd Chapel at Boys Town.

Madam Speaker, without Father Flanagan and his dedicated work, which continues through Boys Town, our Nation would be a poorer place spiritually. I believe that Father Flanagan's Boys Town is an excellent example of the positive impact faith-based institutions can have on our society. Father Flanagan's Boys Town is now Father Flanagan's Girls & Boys Town to reflect the fact that it serves all children.

I commend their continued commitment to the children of this Nation and believe they deserve the recognition of Congress on the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Boys Town's founding.

TRIBUTE TO THE VFW POST NO. 2541 ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2541 on their 75th anniversary. Post 2541 has been organized since 1932 in Algona, IA, which is located in Kossuth County.

No one has done more to secure America's freedom and prosperity than our veterans who have valiantly defended our country. I commend all past and present members of Post 2541 for their dedicated service to America as they celebrate this historic milestone in their post's history.

The mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is to “honor the dead by helping the living” through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense. For 75 years, Post 2541 has lived out this mission for the betterment of their community and the United States of America.

Again, I congratulate the Kossuth Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2541 on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable chapter in Congress, and I wish them an equally storied future.

DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY FEE EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2601, Do Not Call Registry Fee Extension Act of 2007. I am a cosponsor of the legislation and I want to thank Mr. STEARNS for his great work on this bill, and for his leadership on this issue.

I have never seen a legislative proposal move so quickly and achieve such immediate popularity. In the 108th Congress, then-Chairman Tauzin introduced the bill and it became law in less than 2 months. After a court challenge, it was clear that we needed to shore up the FTC's authority, and a bill for that purpose was offered and became law in just 5 days.

I am glad that Mr. STEARNS, along with Mr. RUSH, Mr. PICKERING and Mr. DOYLE, have worked with the FTC to reauthorize and improve that program, and I offer my strong support. I am also grateful to the FTC for their great work in keeping dinnertime uninterrupted for me and 145 million others. This is one instance in which Congress has received near-unanimous, bipartisan approval from the public, and I urge all Members to support H.R. 2601.