

public service. He gave his life to ensure that others could live without fear of violence or harm. For that, he is most certainly a hero for which this country is eternally grateful.

Throughout his career, Special Agent Hicks exemplified the FBI's motto of Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity by serving and protecting the citizens of the United States. As a former special agent, I know he will be sorely missed by all those with whom he served.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of one of our Nation's finest, Samuel K. Hicks, for his model service to United States law enforcement and his commitment to his country. He is truly deserving of America's respect and admiration.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMES WILLIAM MCFARLAND

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor James William McFarland and pay tribute to his memory.

Born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Bill graduated from Tuscaloosa High School and graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama in Commerce and Business Administration. He was named outstanding real estate graduate by the Alabama Association of Realtors.

After graduation, Bill served as director of real estate for Winn Dixie Stores Incorporated in the Louisville, Kentucky division. In 1973, he returned to Tuscaloosa as vice president of Ward McFarland Incorporated, a real estate development and investment firm founded by his father, the Honorable Ward Wharton McFarland.

In 1986, Bill was the Republican Nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives for the Seventh District of Alabama. The following year, former Governor Guy Hunt appointed Bill to his cabinet as commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Retardation. During his two years as commissioner, Bill was successful in pushing for the passage of a \$1 million bond for mental health, the largest in state history. The bond issue enabled mental health facilities throughout Alabama to renovate their facilities and improve their quality of care.

Bill was also a founding member of the Southern High-Speed Rail Commission, and he served numerous terms as chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary/treasurer of the Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi Rapid Rail Transit Commission. Bill played a key role in inaugurating the Gulf Coast Limited Amtrak Service, which provided service to Alabama.

Bill was also active in state politics. He served as chairman for three terms of the Tuscaloosa County Republican Executive Committee. He served as a member of the Alabama State Republican Executive Committee, including one term as seventh district vice-chairman of the Alabama Republican Party. Bill was elected alternate delegate to the 1988 Republican National Convention and was elected statewide as delegate to the 1992 Republican National Convention, at which Presi-

dent George H.W. Bush appointed him as a floor leader for the Southern Caucus.

Bill was an officer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Alabama Governors George C. Wallace, Guy Hunt, and Jim Folsom Jr. each appointed Bill as Lieutenant Colonel Aide-de-Camp. He was also appointed by former U.S. Representative Jack Kemp as a member of the United States Congressional Advisory Board. Bill also worked with the Volunteers of America of Alabama, most recently serving as president. Bill served on the Shelton State Foundation, Friends of Bryce Hospital, as well as other leadership positions with various other community and civic organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. James William McFarland will be dearly missed by his family—his son, J.W. "Billy" McFarland Jr. and his wife, Sarah; his daughter, Mimi McFarland Cawood and her husband, Joseph; his brother, Ward Morrow McFarland; and his nephew, Ward Weston McFarland—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN FEISTNER

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Susan Feistner. Susie recently celebrated 10 years of service in my Omaha Congressional Office. She is a dedicated servant to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. She works hard and deserves accolades.

Susan Feistner serves as my Assistant District Director and Senior Constituent Liaison in my Omaha Congressional Office. Susie handles immigration issues, and this is no small task. Over the years, she has muddled through mounds of paperwork to find solutions for people and in many cases has reunited families, helped with adoptions of foreign-born children and obtained last-minute visas and passports. She has also referred people to attorneys for help in becoming legal citizens, and she has helped many constituents navigate through the tangle of U.S. Immigration laws. Her tireless service has made a difference in thousands of lives.

Over the years, Susie has also been active in Republican Party politics and has worked for candidates up and down and the ballot. Her involvement in our political process is much appreciated by me and the many others she has supported. She has also been a steady hand in my District Office and has acted as Molly Lloyd's deputy when needed. Her continuity has been a big plus for our staff.

Susie, today I offer you a heartfelt thank you. Thank you for your dedication. I am extremely proud of your contributions over the past 10 years. I am blessed to have such a professional and hard working individual on my team. Without your help and guidance, I would not be where I am today. It is a privilege and an honor to have you on my staff. Thank you again.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
LAMBERT C. MIMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor former Mayor Lambert C. Mims and pay tribute to his memory.

With a public career spanning two decades, Mayor Mims's tenure in office marked a period of significant growth for the city of Mobile, including the completion of the George C. Wallace tunnels and the Interstate 10 Bayway, the opening of the restored Fort Conde, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, and the first oil well in Mobile Bay.

Born in the small farming town of Uriah in south Monroe County, Mayor Mims grew up on a cotton farm and was no stranger to hard work. He moved to Mobile at the age of 19 and had called the city home ever since. In 1965, he was elected to the Mobile City Commission, becoming the youngest commissioner in Mobile's history. When first elected, he served as Public Works Commissioner. The commission rotated the title of mayor every 16 months and, during his tenure as mayor and commissioner, he made public morality the foundation of his administration, including the passage of an anti-pornography regulation.

After leaving office, then-Governor George C. Wallace appointed Mayor Mims as ambassador to the Alabama Waterways Development Agency. He later served as president of the American Public Works Association and the Alabama League of Municipalities.

A long-time member and deacon at Riverside Baptist Church, Mayor Mims served as president of the Alabama Baptist Brotherhood, the Alabama Baptist State Convention, the Mobile Baptist Association, and the Masonic Breakfast Club. He was a member of the Azalea Masonic Lodge #898 F & AM, the Abba Temple Shrine, West Mobile Kiwanis Club, the CBMC and served as president of the Waterfront Rescue Mission Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Lambert C. Mims will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Reecie; his sons, Dale P. Mims and L. Daniel Mims; his grandchildren, Lindsay C. Mims and Katie E. Mims; and his brother, Bibb Graves Mims—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

CYPRUS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues to shed light on disheartening developments that have taken place recently off the coast of the Republic of Cyprus.

On November 13 of this year, a Turkish warship issued threats to two foreign flagged maritime vessels conducting an exploratory survey at the request of the Government of Cyprus, within its exclusive economic zone, EEZ. The Turkish warship claimed that these vessels had entered into Turkey's EEZ. Fearing retaliation, the exploratory ships withdrew. However, at the time of this threat, these two ships had been located 27 miles off the coast of Cyprus, which is included within its EEZ boundaries.

In addition to this most recent incident, Turkey has used the waters of the Republic of Cyprus to conduct military exercises numerous times. Furthermore, even after Cyprus's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Minas Hadjimichael, and President of the Republic of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias, notified the U.N. Secretary-General of the November 13th Turkish provocation, Turkish warships continue to harass ships within Cyprus's EEZ.

Turkey's recent violations of international maritime law not only jeopardize the possibility for the re-unification of Cyprus, but they also endanger global security. In just one month, Turkey is to become a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, the same governing body that has frequently denounced Turkey's disregard for Cyprus's sovereignty. If Turkey violates the conditions to which it agreed when it joined the United Nations as they pertain to Cyprus—conditions that mandate each Member State's respect for the sovereignty of all States—who is to say that it will not violate its obligation to any other nation, including the United States? For Turkey to threaten the Republic of Cyprus—a nation that has been a staunch supporter of the United States and one that has been an unwavering ally in the Global War on Terror—is disturbing. The United States cannot simply remain silent and watch these provocative acts take place.

Madam Speaker, enough is enough. I encourage my colleagues to join me in condemning Turkey's blatant and repeated acts of aggression against the Republic of Cyprus and to demand that Turkey abide by the provisions to which it agreed when it joined the United Nations, provisions that the Republic of Cyprus has continually observed with pride.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE JOE KNOLLENBERG ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable JOE KNOLLENBERG for his service to the people of Michigan and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman KNOLLENBERG has represented the Ninth Congressional District of the State of Michigan for the past 16 years.

Born and raised in Mattoon, Illinois, JOE is a graduate of East Illinois University. After

serving in the Army for 2 years, he moved to the Detroit area in 1959 to work as an Allstate Insurance agent and eventually opened his own branch office.

JOE quickly became a familiar face in his community serving as PTA president, homeowner association president and parish leader. He also chaired the Oakland County GOP organization and directed the campaign of Republican Representative William S. Broomfield in 1992.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, JOE has served as chairman of three House Appropriations subcommittees during his tenure. He currently serves as the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

An ardent supporter of auto manufacturers, an integral part of Michigan's economy, JOE authored legislation that cracked down on counterfeiters who make fraudulent automotive parts that cost Americans thousands of jobs in the automotive industry.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife of 45 years, Sandie; his two sons, Marty and Steve; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

JOE will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 7330 THE "COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF ACT OF 2008"

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Energy and Commerce Committee is vested with the responsibility for overseeing sports, and that includes the current process for determining a national college football champion: the BCS system. College football is more than an exhilarating sport, it's a billion-dollar business. I'm introducing legislation today because despite every effort to fix the problems of BCS, college seasons still end in sniping and controversy, rather than clear winners and losers determined on the field.

The BCS system was created to identify a broadly accepted national champion, but 50 percent of the time it has failed to do so. Most coaches who lose half their games would also lose their jobs. Yet that's what we settle for in determining a champion today.

The BCS system of determining America's top collegiate team was established in 1998 and has been plagued by controversy almost ever since. In some years the sport's national championship winner was left unsettled, and at least one school was left out of the many millions of dollars in revenue that accompany the title. Despite repeated efforts to improve the system, the controversy rages on.

In the 2003 season, the University of Oklahoma and Louisiana State University were selected to play in the title game, even though the University of Southern California arguably had an equal claim. LSU beat Oklahoma and USC also won its bowl game, leaving both schools claiming to be national champions and further chafing millions of college football fans, especially USC alumni. As a direct result of LSU's selection by BCS, the school's merchandise sales in both 2003 and 2004 were more than double previous levels, producing millions of dollars in additional revenue for the school.

In the 2004 season, again three equally qualified and, in this case, undefeated teams—Auburn, Oklahoma and USC—fought for the two slots in the title game, which once again produced an uneven outcome as USC defeated Oklahoma handily. Auburn won its game, but had no opportunity to play for a national championship and the millions of dollars that accompany it.

This year, we again have two teams with one loss each playing for the "championship" while two undefeated teams and four additional teams with only one loss will play in bowl games, but none can become "champion."

The distinction of being the best brings millions of dollars in revenue, but the BCS method of determining who is number one consistently misfires. When we held our first hearing on BCS in 2005, I didn't have legislation in mind, and I hoped none would be necessary. Simply exposing the flaws and subjecting them to discussion, however, hasn't led to improvement by those who run the system.

The legislation I am introducing along with Congressmen BOBBY RUSH and MICHAEL MCCAUL recognizes the flaws of this system. Consumers, whether the millions who watch the game on TV or the lucky few who pay for a ticket to the computer-designated "championship" game, are being deceived. The BCS championship game is not a championship game under any sensible interpretation of the manner in which sports champions are determined.

The legislation we are introducing today will prohibit the marketing, promotion, and advertising of a post-season game as a "national championship" football game, unless it is the result of a playoff system. Violations of the prohibition will be treated as violations of the Federal Trade Commission Act as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, and provides the FTC with civil penalty authority.

The legislation does not specify the details of the playoff system; rather, it ensures that that all Division I, Football Bowl Subdivision, teams should be initially eligible at the start of every season. The existing bowl structure could easily be incorporated into or as the basis for such a playoff system.

We're never going to abolish all controversy, and who'd really want to be rid of it, anyway? People will argue about who should be in and out of playoffs, too, but I am confident when more of the most deserving teams can compete, a true national champion is much likelier to emerge.