

later, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, and in 1996, she was elected to the state Senate.

Elected to Congress in 2002, MARILYN quickly stood out from her peers. She was named by Newsweek magazine as the "Rising Star" in the House and the National Journal referenced her as one of two freshman congressmen to watch. She is probably most known as the chief House sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, MARILYN has upheld her strong conservative views as a vocal member of the Republican Study Committee Caucus as well as founder of the Congressional Second Amendment Caucus. She served on the Small Business Committee and as chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs.

As the top-ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee's Specialty Crops Subcommittee, MARILYN served as a member of the Farm Bill conference committee, where she was a leading voice in the crafting of the legislation. She worked to obtain nearly \$3 billion in emergency funding for farmers and ranchers who have been plagued by a multitude of natural disasters over the past six years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know her family, her husband, Steve; her four children, Chad, Becky, Amy, and John; and her many friends and colleagues join me in honoring her accomplishments and extending thanks for her service over the years on behalf of the State of Colorado and the United States of America.

MARILYN will surely enjoy the well deserved time she now has to spend with her family and loved ones. I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEE BASS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Mr. Lee Bass. His successes are many, but it is his unabashed willingness to serve Arkansas that demands recognition. I am proud to honor Lee Bass for his 34 years of federal service as Chief of the Operations Division of the Little Rock Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Bass holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas and has completed postgraduate courses from the University of Arkansas, University of Denver and the University of Santa Clara.

Bass is recognized as a leader throughout the Corps of Engineers and has received numerous performance awards in a variety of jobs and districts. He received two Hammer Awards from the Office of the Vice President of the United States and was once recognized as Civilian of the Year. His staff nominated him for Federal Manager of the Year in Arkansas, which he won. He was recognized and inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers. He is a past president and regional director of the State Chapter of the American

Society of Civil Engineers. He was the chapter director of the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers, and served in various offices of the Razorback Post of the Society of American Military Engineers.

Lee Bass's career has numerous milestones but he will be remembered most for his dedication to excellence and his vision of serving the Army Corps and his employees to the best of his ability. His wide-ranging experience in civil works activities far exceeded the norm and has allowed the region to plan, build and operate many water management projects in the Arkansas.

On behalf of the Congress, I extend deep appreciation to Lee Bass for his decades of leadership and his dedication to the area's infrastructure. We salute his efforts that have made Arkansas' waterways safe and efficient and has thank him for making our state and nation a better place to work, live and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING ACTS OF COMPASSION AND THE SUPPORT OF A COMMUNITY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, make no mistake about it: what we do in this chamber, the decisions we make as Members of Congress, have far-reaching implications for the Americans we represent and people around the world. I sometimes worry, though, that citizens look first to government to solve problems rather than searching within themselves for the power to make a difference. I'd like to share with you a story about one family that proves the way we change the world happens one person at a time.

Over the last several months, I have had the privilege of assisting a professor and his family attempt to make our world a better place. Dr. John Simmons, a life sciences instructor at Barton County Community College in Great Bend, Kansas, and his wife Lori, along with their four biological children, will travel to Ethiopia at the end of this month to adopt two orphaned sisters.

Famine, AIDS, and other diseases have created a sad situation in Ethiopia where 25 percent of the children are orphaned by age 12. While orphanages do their best to provide for these children and see that young girls and boys have a bright future, what these children really need is a mom and dad who will care for them as their own. Few acts are more generous and loving than welcoming another as part of one's own family. I have great respect for the Simmonses and all those who choose to adopt.

While adopting 2 young girls is alone commendable, what sets John and Lori apart is their effort to serve other children at the orphanage and involve the Great Bend community in that mission.

This summer, John launched a fundraising effort to feed and clothe the children at the orphanage, purchase humanitarian supplies and pay for their shipping costs. John's goal of raising \$10,000 was accomplished primarily by selling "Barton to Africa" t-shirts for \$30 each. The shirts were printed with "Barton" in Ethio-

pia's official language on the front and a map of the United States on the back with a star in the center of the country, marking Barton County, Kansas. John even created more excitement for the fundraiser by promising to shave his head if the community helped him reach his goal by November 8.

After nearly 5 months of speaking with civic clubs, church members, neighbors, colleagues and students, John exceeded his fundraising goal and at halftime of a Barton County Community College basketball game, he and Barton County Community College Admissions Representative Louie Ochoa had their heads shaved.

I imagine most people would rest on such an accomplishment. But, John dreams of more. It is his hope that the trip to Ethiopia this month will be the beginning of a long-lasting relationship between Ethiopians and the citizens of Great Bend who joined him in his effort. John envisions providing orphans with educational opportunities at Barton County Community College. Doing so would not only offer disadvantaged children a brighter future but also further facilitate relationships between Kansans and Ethiopians.

John's fundraising effort raised awareness about the needs of others in a far corner of the world. It galvanized the community around a common goal and showed that when people work together, there is no limit on what can be accomplished.

I rise today to commend and congratulate John and Lori Simmons, their family and the citizens of Great Bend. Their compassion and effort will help make the lives of orphaned children in Ethiopia better.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE CHRIS SHAYS 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 CHRISTOPHER SHAYS for his service to the people of Connecticut and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman SHAYS has represented the Fourth Congressional District of the state of Connecticut for the past 22 years.

Born in the city of Darien, CHRIS is a lifelong resident of the state of Connecticut, attending school at Principia College where he received his bachelor of arts in American history and political science. Following college, CHRIS and his wife, Betsi, spent two years in the Fiji Islands as Peace Corps volunteers. CHRIS later attended New York University where he received his master of business administration in 1974, specializing in urban affairs and economics, followed by his master of public administration in 1978.

CHRIS began his political career at the age of 29 in the Connecticut State House of Representatives, serving from 1975 to 1987. In 1987, CHRIS was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives by a special election to fill the seat of the late Stewart McKinney. During his long career in Congress, CHRIS has served on

the Financial Services Committee, the Committee on Homeland Security, as well as the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where he is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs.

Known as a “maverick” and an “independent thinker,” one of his most well-known legislative accomplishments is probably the Shays-Meehan bill, which was signed into law as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. In his work on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, CHRIS played a key role during the debate to create the new Department of Homeland Security.

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, Betsi; his daughter, Jeremy; 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 Connecticut and the United States of America.

CHRIS 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.

RECOGNIZING THE “HELPING OUR HEROES FOUNDATION”

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Helping Our Heroes Foundation (HOHF) for its many accomplishments, and their volunteers for their support of our servicemembers and their families.

The Helping Our Heroes Foundation, founded in October of 2004, is preparing to conclude its mission at the end of this year. Over the past four years, the Helping Our Heroes Foundation has provided funding and services and organized volunteers in support of servicemembers injured in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Helping Our Heroes Foundation has done so through a partnership with the Department of the Army. This partnership has improved the quality and scope of services and opportunities made available to our veterans during and after their recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. The support provided by the Helping Our Heroes Foundation has boosted morale for our veterans and assisted their families with challenges associated with recovery.

Among its many initiatives, the Helping Our Heroes Foundation has supported our wounded heroes by sponsoring baby showers for expectant mothers who are spouses of injured servicemembers, resume writing workshops for veterans ready to transition to the civilian workforce, scholarships to enable advanced education and training, and activities to bring the community together. The Helping Our Heroes Foundation also has excelled in its goal of securing charitable donations in support of veterans programs. These are a few examples of the Foundation’s overall efforts.

Volunteers are at the heart of the Helping Our Heroes Foundation’s success. The leadership of its Board of Directors and its founding

donors has enabled the Foundation to fulfill its goals. In particular, Ms. Karen Theobald-Conlin, who serves as President of the Helping Our Heroes Foundation, is to be recognized for her initiative and commitment. On this occasion, communities and veterans across the country are joining together to recognize the support provided by the Helping Our Heroes Foundation, its Board of Directors and volunteers, to our wounded heroes and their families. As a Member of Congress who has taken part in their activities at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and witnessed the good work of their volunteers, I join others in recognizing the role the Helping Our Heroes Foundation has served for our veterans. We will continue to honor our veterans based on the foundation established by the Helping Our Heroes Foundation.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN DAVIS

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 Karen Davis. Karen 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.

Karen Davis serves as Outreach Coordinator for my Omaha Congressional Office. Karen is the epitome of customer service. Karen has the skill and understanding to help seniors make sense of complex issues such as Medicare and Medicaid. Although at times carrying a crushing workload while being a working mother, she is accessible, helpful and always puts constituents first. Her dedication to service has touched thousands of individuals during her 10 years. I should also point out that Karen’s dad was a Tuskegee airman—a point of pride for not only Karen but all of us in our office.

Karen, today I offer you a heartfelt thank you. Thank you for your vision, passion and understanding. You should be proud of the many things you have accomplished over the years. I know I am. I consider you a friend and I am grateful to have you on my team. Thank you.

WEYERHAEUSER: CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgment of the wonderful and continuous success of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, located in my home state of Washington. This past October, Weyerhaeuser was named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index—an index that tracks North American companies in terms of their environmental, social and economic performance—and is the only North American company named in the category of forestry and paper products.

Weyerhaeuser, one of the largest pulp and paper companies in the world, and the world’s

largest private owner of softwood timberland, is indeed a global leader in terms of sustainability. Along with many other innovative environmental initiatives, they have committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by the year 2020 based on their 2000 levels and have already made great strides. They also employ over 40,000 people all over the world who contribute positively to each community they reside in and, in 2007, sales at Weyerhaeuser totaled more than \$16 billion.

As a staunch supporter of conservation and the innovative environmental leadership of businesses both big and small, I congratulate Weyerhaeuser as a whole for the most recent acknowledgment of their environmental, social and economic success. Specifically, I salute Weyerhaeuser Chairman and CEO Steve Rogel, COO Richard Hanson and the Board of Directors for their fantastic leadership and vision.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RIC KELLER 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 RIC KELLER for his service to the people of Florida and the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman KELLER has represented the Eighth Congressional District of the State of Florida for the past eight years.

Born and raised in Orlando, Florida, Ric graduated first in his class at East Tennessee State University and received his law degree from Vanderbilt University. Before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Ric worked as a private lawyer in Orlando, helping write two state constitutional amendments to finance the cleanup of Everglades National Park. One, known as “Polluter Pays,” required sugar companies to contribute to the restoration of the Everglades.

Raised by a single mother on a secretary’s salary, Ric used Pell Grants, federal grants for low-income college students, to help pay for his college education, and since coming to Congress, he has been a leading champion of Pell Grants. As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, as well as founder and chairman of the Pell Grant Caucus, Ric was successful in pushing to raise the maximum grant from \$3,750 to \$4,050 a year.

Ric is also a member of the House Judiciary Committee, from which post he has been a leading advocate of the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program, which makes law enforcement officers more visible by taking them out of patrol cars and putting them on neighborhood streets.

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, Dee Dee; his four children, Nick, Christy, Kaylee and Kate; 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 Florida and the United States of America.