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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 2, 2009.

Ms. KAREN STEWART,  
Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Washington DC.

DEAR Ms. STEWART: I write following the successful rollout of the 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. I know that this exhaustive report which catalogues human rights abuses globally is the result of countless hours of hard work on the part of human rights officers in DRL and in American embassies abroad. I also know that the final product often comes after hard fought battles within the building.

I ask that you share with your staff and with human rights officers the world over my profound appreciation for their efforts. At times I know it can seem a thankless task. But the efforts of your bureau to speak truth to power and to be a voice for the voiceless brings hope and makes a difference to millions.

You have my profound thanks. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
Member of Congress.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, today, I will be absent from votes in the House, as I will be travelling to Ohio with the President to discuss the economic challenges facing my home state of Ohio.

The most recent unemployment numbers only underscore the clear and glaring need for economic revitalization in my district. I look forward to sharing the perspective of Appalachian Ohio with the President and discussing how we can move forward with plans that offer new opportunity for the people I represent.

This cooperation will be critical to steering our nation's economy back on track.

I will return to the House for any scheduled votes this afternoon.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF FORMER ALABAMA GOVERNOR GUY HUNT

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Alabama Governor Guy Hunt. Our nation lost a wonderful friend and an individual who made numerous contributions toward the betterment of our state.

A native of Holly Pond, Alabama, Governor Hunt enlisted in the United States Army upon graduation from Holly Pond High School and served in the Korean War. Following his discharge in 1956, he returned to Alabama where he operated an egg farm. In 1958, he was ordained a Primitive Baptist minister.

Governor Hunt's political career began in 1962 when he ran for a seat in the Alabama Senate. He lost the election; however, in 1964, he was elected probate judge of Cullman County becoming the youngest probate judge in Alabama. Honoring a campaign promise, he stepped down after two terms.

He was also active in the Republican Party, serving as state chairman of Ronald Reagan's presidential campaigns in 1976 and 1980. He also chaired Alabama's Republican delegations at the 1976 and 1980 Republican National Conventions.

After President Reagan won election in 1980, he appointed Governor Hunt state director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. He served on the committee until 1985 when he stepped down to run for governor.

Winning the 1986 election with the most votes ever for a gubernatorial candidate at that time, he became Alabama's first Republican chief executive since Reconstruction. His election to the governor's office is credited with creating a two-party system in the state. Governor Hunt was re-elected in 1990.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this dedicated public servant. Guy Hunt will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Anne Smith Hunt; two sons, Keith Hunt and his wife Heather, and Cary Smith and his wife Jayne; five daughters, Pamela Hunt, Sherrie Williams, Lynn Harris and her husband Doug, Judy Gurley and her husband Mike, and Lois Swindal and her husband Bruce; 16 grandchildren, Nigel Hunt, Nolan Hunt, Ashley Hunt, Kayla Hunt, Samuel Hunt, Heath Williams, Eric Williams, Kelly Williams, Raygen Catoe, Dusty Kanute, Dawn Brantley, Rachel Gurley, Caryanne Swindal, Bradley Swindal, Joshua Swindal, and Anna Grace Swindal; and eight great-grandchildren, Bonnie Catoe, Katelyn Kanute, Cale Kanute, William Brantley, Parker Brantley, Levi Hunt, Skye Hunter, and Helen Anne Williams—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

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

#### HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

Mr. Chair, my congressional district, like districts all across the nation, has been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis. In 2007 Los Angeles County had a foreclosure rate of 12%. In 2008 this number had jumped to 35%. Worse yet, while many parts of the country have already received the full brunt of the foreclosure crisis, experts agree that the full force of the crisis has yet to reach Los Angeles.

I have been concerned that previous congressional efforts to stabilize the economy and help my Los Angeles constituents have failed to address the root of the problem—defaulting mortgages.

I am pleased that the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act will make substantive reforms to end the rising tide of foreclosures and keep families in their homes.

Specifically, the measure will allow a judge to modify primary mortgages in the case of bankruptcy so that families can stay in their homes. Currently, when a family files for bankruptcy they can modify loans on second homes, and other property but not on their primary residence. It is widely recognized that judicial modification of mortgages on primary residences is one of the most significant things that we can do to keep families in their homes.

By encouraging homeowners to work out their loans before filing for bankruptcy, the measure ensures that bankruptcy still remains a measure of last resort. The bill will also adapt federal loan modification programs to make it easier for mortgage servicers to participate.

In addition, the bill begins to address a growing concern—the growing number of organizations that aim to profit off of families who are in crisis and at risk of losing their home. This problem is highly visible in my congressional district, and is a cause of great concern. The measure increases oversight over the FHA home mortgage insurance program to better ensure that predatory lenders are barred from participating.

Mr. Chair, this legislation is necessary to help our nation's path of recovery by addressing the cause of the economic crisis.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical measure that will keep our constituents in their homes.

HONORING VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE ON HIS DECORATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 6, 2009*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Vice President Walter Mondale as he receives the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers from the Government of Japan. This prestigious decoration is the highest honor given to foreign civilians by the Japanese government and is being bestowed to Vice President Mondale for his contribution to enhancing friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States as U.S. Ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996.

No public servant is more deserving of this honor than my friend and fellow Minnesotan Walter Mondale. For five decades, Minnesotans have supported the man they warmly call "Fritz" as he served as Vice President of the United States under President Carter, Minnesota's U.S. Senator from 1964 to 1976, and State Attorney General. His contributions in areas including education, social justice and international human rights have forever changed Minnesota, our nation and the world.

Walter Mondale's career in public service is distinguished, however, not by the greatness of his titles, but by the goodness of his heart. He used his positions of authority to tirelessly promote cross-cultural understanding, economic justice and civil rights. While his accomplishments are many, his greatest legacy may be the model of principled and diligent public service that continues to inspire America and fill Minnesotans with quiet pride.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and all Minnesotans in congratulating Vice President Mondale on this distinct and much-deserved honor.

CONGRATULATING TRAY SMITH FOR BEING NAMED ATMORE'S "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 6, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate my friend Tray Smith of Atmore, Alabama, for being named Atmore's 2008 "Citizen of the Year." As evidenced by an outstanding list of accomplishments, he is one of the most exceptional young men I have ever known.

Tray has a love of people and an understanding of politics that is certainly beyond his years. As a freshman in high school, he was given an opportunity to write a weekly political column for The Atmore Advance. He has also been an active member of the Student Government Association, a member of the National Honor Society and helped start a recycling program at Escambia County High School. In addition, Tray is an Eagle Scout and last year helped more than 100 citizens register to vote, most of them being minorities.

Although I have known Tray for years, I have been especially proud of some of his

more recent accomplishments. As you may know, Governor Bob Riley chose Tray to be the first high school intern working in his office in Montgomery. Additionally, as part of the Junior Statesmen of American Summer program at Georgetown University, Tray also attended the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. During both opportunities, Tray excelled in every way possible.

Last year, however, I was especially proud to nominate Tray to serve as a page in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, DC. This is an honor that falls on only a select few high school juniors from throughout the nation; needless to say, he made me proud every day that I saw him on the floor of the U.S. Congress, and he has made south Alabama proud countless times as well.

Tray's list of accomplishments reads more like someone who is three or four times his age. Suffice it to say, he truly represents the very best of our young people today. Perhaps the highest compliment I can pay Tray is that as a father of a teenage daughter and an 11-year-old son, I can only hope that my children will one day have the maturity, the value system and the sense of priorities as they continue to grow-up that Tray has. There couldn't be a better role-model for them—or for our other young people—than Tray Smith.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the proud citizens of the First Congressional District and the entire state of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Tray Smith on this tremendous achievement. I know I speak for all my colleagues in the House of Representatives when I say we can't wait to see what he accomplishes in the next 18 years of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 6, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am respectfully writing to you so that it is acknowledged, had I been present to vote on H. Res. 153 "Commending the University of Southern California Trojan football team for its victory in the 2009 Rose Bowl" my vote would have been cast in support of this resolution.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 6, 2009*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Republican Conference standards, I am submitting the following information for publication concerning a project included at my request in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus.

Requesting Member: JIM JORDAN (Fourth Ohio District)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Section 205 (Flood Damage Reduction)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District

Address of Requesting Entity: 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207

Description of Request: The City of Findlay, Ohio, saw three of its worst floods in history in just a 13-month period in 2007–8. These floods devastated the city, causing significant damage to the downtown business district and displacing hundreds of residents. The Army Corps of Engineers has worked diligently since the January 2007 flood toward developing flood damage reduction plans; the feasibility study is on schedule for completion in 2010.

I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

HONORING THE GOOD DEEDS OF BEVERLY YOUNG

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 6, 2009*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valor of someone who is no stranger to good deeds and heroic actions. For those of us who have the pleasure of knowing her, Beverly Young is an activist at heart, and a go-getter by reputation.

Beverly, wife of our good friend and colleague BILL YOUNG, has never backed down from an obstacle or challenge standing in her way. She is universally recognized for getting things done.

On a US Airways flight from Tampa, FL to Washington, DC this week, an elderly woman collapsed in the airplane lavatory and lost consciousness. When no one with medical training stepped forward to help, Beverly, a former firefighter and medic, rushed to her side. Using her skills in CPR, Beverly revived the woman and remained with her to make sure she kept awake and alert.

Others on the flight that day probably thought that this was just the one-time act of a Good Samaritan. But for those of us who know her, her quick action to help someone in need was far from ordinary.

Madam Speaker, since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Beverly Young has been a fixture in the halls of our nation's military medical centers. She's not there to receive fanfare or to seek recognition; she's there to support the thousands of our nation's best and brightest who have been injured serving our great country.

Beverly is not an occasional visitor; she is there constantly for these young men and women and their families, becoming as familiar to them as anyone else they encounter during their recovery. She listens to each and every one of them, and she makes sure that they get what they need, whether it's food or supplies or fighting the Washington bureaucracy on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, our country is a better place because of people like Beverly Young. Her selfless service has earned her the respect and gratitude of all those she has helped, and all those who have witnessed her good deeds in action.