

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
ROSIE SEAMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor the career of beloved television host, author and community leader, Rosie Seaman.

A former preschool and kindergarten teacher, Rosie joined Mobile's WKRG-TV5 in 1974 as the host of "Rosie's Place," a locally-produced, weekly half-hour show for school-age children. For almost ten years, families across the central Gulf Coast welcomed Rosie into their homes. In 1976, "Rosie's Place" won the Alabama Arts and Humanities Award for best TV series in the state.

Rosie later went on to produce other children's programming at WKRG, including "Small Fry News" and "Youth Magazine."

Rosie has worn many hats over the course of her 35 year career with Mobile's CBS affiliate. She was the producer of the public affairs program, "Page 5," associate producer for the "We Are Mobile" tri-centennial movie project, and producer for WKRG's morning and noon news programs. Most recently, she served as segment producer at WKRG, booking guests for the station's news and public affairs programs.

Through her work at WKRG, Rosie ensured that civic leaders and organizations had frequent access to the airwaves. She helped organizations including the United Way, the American Cancer Society, the Salvation Army and the Child Advocacy Center reach out to viewers through the station's public affairs and talk segments on news shows.

Rosie was also the author of several nationally published educational books, which ranged in topic from arts and sciences to the teaching of moral values to young children. Mobile's Drug Education Council recently published one of Rosie's books on drug awareness for young children.

In recognition of her remarkable accomplishments, The Press Club of Mobile awarded Rosie its 2004 John Harris Lifetime Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. On behalf of all those who have benefited from her good heart and generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for her many efforts in making Mobile and south Alabama a better place. Rosie Seaman is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of broadcast journalism.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST REFORMED CHURCH IN GRANDVILLE, MICHIGAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the First Reformed Church of Grandville, Michigan. On Sunday, April 19, 2009, a commemorative worship service and celebration will memorialize this extraordinary milestone, and it is a privilege to recognize and honor Reverend Christopher Wolf and the congregation of this remarkable church for the model of Christian service and the beacon of hope they have offered to the Grandville community over the past 150 years.

From the first service on April 13, 1859 up until today, First Reformed has faithfully served The Lord, the residents of Grandville, and the world through its ministries, involvement in the community, and missionary outreach. The commemoration of First Reformed's sesquicentennial anniversary during the April 19 service is the highlight of a year-long celebration of spiritual, historic and community events.

This remarkable anniversary reminds all of us that wonderful things do happen when we seek to serve and glorify God. Reflecting on the journey experienced by the congregants of First Reformed over the last 150 years, it is appropriate to reaffirm and strengthen our own faith, acknowledge the blessings bestowed upon us, and recognize the call to reach out to others and share God's love.

I am proud to represent the people who call First Reformed their church home, and am grateful to this congregation for their Christ-like example. I am honored to extend my best wishes on this sesquicentennial occasion, and look forward to their service and ministry to the people of Grandville for many more years.

HONORING DR. NANCY ZIMPHER

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Nancy Zimpher, President of the University of Cincinnati for her tremendous dedication to higher education. Unfortunately, President Zimpher will be departing us to become the new chancellor of the State University of New York on June 1. They will be blessed to have her.

A native Ohioan, President Zimpher became the University of Cincinnati's 25th president and first woman president in October of 2003. From the beginning, President Zimpher worked tirelessly to raise the University's profile. During her tenure she increased the University of Cincinnati's freshman class and total enrollments to new heights, while increasing retention and graduation rates. The caliber of students and educators at the University of Cincinnati has never been higher. President Zimpher's immense responsibilities have included managing 16 colleges, an academic

medical and research center, one billion dollar annual budget, and the most employees in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Away from the University, President Zimpher has given her time and talents to numerous civic causes, including serving on the boards of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati Center City Development, United Way of Greater Cincinnati, and many others.

As a proud graduate of the University of Cincinnati and a faithful Bearcat, it is with a heavy heart that I congratulate Dr. Zimpher on her new and exciting opportunity as chancellor of the State University of New York. The Cincinnati region and most importantly the University of Cincinnati are better off today due to President Zimpher's dedication and leadership. Good luck Dr. Zimpher, you will be missed.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican guidelines on earmarks, I submit the following statement for the record regarding H.R. 1105, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force
Address of Requesting Entity: One Park Center Court, Manassas Park, VA, 20111

Description of Request: In response to increasing gang activity in northern Virginia, a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force was established in 2003 to more effectively respond to gang activity. As a result of the task force's efforts, criminal gang activity has declined by more than 50 percent. In order to sustain and maintain these impressive results, the task force requested \$2.5 million in funding, which is included in H.R. 1105.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northwest Virginia Regional Gang Task Force
Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 49, Berryville, VA, 22611

Description of Request: In response to increasing gang activity in the Shenandoah Valley, this task force was established to coordinate and share information with their counterparts at the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the entire northern Virginia region is a hotbed of gang activity. In order to better fight gang activity in this area, the task force requested \$750,000 in funding, which is included in H.R. 1105.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Capital Investment Grants
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Aviation Circle, Washington, D.C. 20001

Description of Request: H.R. 1105 provides \$29.1 million to be used for extending the Metrorail system through Tysons Corner to Washington Dulles International Airport. Northern Virginia continues to be one of the country's fastest growing areas, but with that has come the distinction of being the second worst traffic congested region in America. Congressional funding to bring a much needed mass transit system linking the West Falls Church Metro station to Washington Dulles International Airport was first approved in FY 1999.

Additional Request: I also requested language in this bill that would prohibit the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) from reallocating previously appropriated funding for the Dulles Corridor Rapid Transit Project. Specifically, I requested that the funding from FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, FY 2006 and FY 2008 be protected.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT BRACKIN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the town of Loxley, Alabama, and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Franklin Roosevelt Brackin and pay tribute to his memory.

Known to his many friends as Frank, he was a native of Covington, Alabama and lived in Loxley for over three decades. Frank was known to everyone in Loxley for riding his bicycle adorned with American flags through town. He took it upon himself to monitor the flags flown on the town's public property, and he would notify the staff at Town Hall if he spotted a problem.

Each day, Frank ate breakfast at the Loxley Civic Center with other seniors, and he visited the Fire Department, Police Department and merchants along Alabama Highway 59. As Frank grew older and traffic increased, he began making his daily visits on foot, at which time, Loxley police provided him with an orange safety vest to make him more visible as he traveled throughout the community.

Frank was also a member of the Association of Retarded Citizens of Baldwin County (ARCBC). Each year, he and other ARCBC members traveled to either Disney World or Dollywood, which was always a highlight of his year. Frank was also active in the Baldwin County Strawberry Festival, serving on the cleanup committee for many years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Franklin Roosevelt Brackin will be dearly missed by his family—his two brothers, his sister, and the entire town of Loxley—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

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

A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS: A
TRIBUTE TO GEORGE K. STEIL,
SR.

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, a devoted husband, and a personal friend and mentor. George K. Steil, Sr. was a pillar of integrity and leadership in the Janesville community and the state of Wisconsin. George passed away less than a month ago at his home in Janesville, but not before leaving an indelible mark on the countless lives he touched—myself included. He will be sorely missed, but will never, ever, be forgotten.

George was born in Western Wisconsin in 1924, and served his nation with honor in World War II as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Amphibious Forces in both New Guinea and the Philippines. Shortly after his return from service, George married the beautiful Mavis Andrews in 1947 in Darlington, Wisconsin.

George is an institution at the University of Wisconsin—having received a Doctor of Law Degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1950, been named a lecturer at UW in 1974, and having received the law school's highest honor—the Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1991. He was appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson to the UW Board of Regents, serving as the Board's President from 1992–1994, as well as Chairperson of the UW Medical Foundation and member of the UW Hospital Authority.

He had among the most illustrious legal careers of any in the State of Wisconsin, serving on numerous statewide—and international—committees and associations. George was elected president of the State Bar in 1976, and later honored by the Wisconsin Bar Foundation as the 9th recipient of the Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding public service as a citizen, an attorney, and a humanitarian.

His leadership in the community was also unparalleled. He has served as President and Senior Partner of Brennan, Steil, and Basting in Janesville, having been with the firm from 1960 until his death. George had been President of Janesville's Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank One in Janesville; and took countless other leading roles in both the public and private sector. He had also been recognized for his commitment to the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Madison. George's commitment to faith was evident in all he did, as his service to God was manifest in his tireless service to others.

His long list of achievements and honors fails to do justice in describing the type of man George Steil was. My father was George's law partner, and I had the privilege of getting to know the Steil family during the formative years of my life. Because I lost my father at a young age, George became a mentor of mine. He gave me the kind of fatherly guidance and encouragement that I so desperately needed as I grew up and faced life's many challenges. Unlike any other, I looked to George as a role model, and was blessed to be taken under his wing.

George Steil dedicated his life to the service of others: to his fellow countrymen in the U.S. Army; to his neighbors—especially those most vulnerable—in Janesville, Rock County, and Wisconsin; to his clients, his customers, and fellow parishioners; and—most passionately—to his friends and his family.

To George's four children: George, Jr. and wife Patricia; John of Janesville; Michelle and husband Patrick; and Marcelaine and husband John. Your father will forever be one of Janesville's finest.

To his two great-grandchildren and ten grandchildren, including my former and future staffers Bryan and Allison Steil: your grandfather's zest for life and selfless commitment to service provides a guiding light for you to follow for years to come.

To his wife Mavis: For your unconditional love and support over the years, I will forever be in debt to you and to your husband.

My prayers and my eternal gratitude remain with the Steil family.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E. "BOB"
WHEELER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Robert E. "Bob" Wheeler of Hot Springs, who passed away on April 16, 2009, at the age of 72. Affectionately called "Mister Hot Springs," Bob dedicated his life's work to Hot Springs, the city he loved and the city he called home.

Bob was a hard worker and an inspiring leader, and it was his vision that helped make Hot Springs the vibrant center of tourism, commerce and history that it is today. In response to the city's struggling economy in the 1980s, Bob was instrumental in passing bond issues that renovated and expanded the former Hot Springs Convention Auditorium into the Hot Springs Convention Center, a state-of-the-art conference facility that now hosts groups from across the country. He was also key in reopening the Magic Springs & Crystal Falls amusement park, as well as envisioning and seeing to completion Summit Arena, which now hosts major concerts and athletic events.

In an official capacity, Bob served as the City Director from 1986 until 2004, when he declined to run for re-election. He also served on the Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission for 15 years, being named the commission's only "Commissioner Emeritus" upon his retirement.

Bob was a successful businessman heading Wheeler Printing, and he was the motivation for making Hot Springs the permanent home of the Miss Arkansas Pageant, where he served more than 40 years as the state pageant's Executive Director.

Realizing the city's important contributions to Arkansas over the years, Bob's vision included a city that recognizes and honors its past and traditions while embracing change and economic development. Today, as a direct result of Bob's efforts, Hot Springs is a year-round destination for conventions and tourists and a thriving community in which to raise a family.