

has equally distinguished himself in public service.

As a law student, he worked for the Southern Poverty Law Center and the late U.S. Senator Howell Heflin. After law school, ARTUR DAVIS compiled a near 100 percent trial conviction record as a federal prosecutor in the Middle District of Alabama. From 1998 to 2002, he worked as a litigator in private practice.

Congressman DAVIS was first elected to Congress in 2002 and has served four terms representing his west Alabama district which encompasses twelve counties, spanning from Birmingham and Tuscaloosa to the Black Belt.

Congressman DAVIS and I both represent portions of Clarke County and it has been my personal pleasure to work with him and his staff during his 8 years in the House. We were both elected in the same class of 2002 and have labored together to help expand economic opportunity for southwest Alabama. I am particularly grateful for his support of efforts to enhance the Port of Mobile and the Alabama State Docks as well as his valuable assistance in ongoing major economic development projects for our region.

ARTUR made his mark in Washington as an effective legislator who has won national attention for his leadership on a range of issues. He serves as a member of the prestigious Ways and Means Committee, which oversees economic policy. Congressman DAVIS is only the tenth Alabamian in 190 years to serve on this committee, which is the only congressional committee actually described in the Constitution.

He was the chief advocate for legislation to save the HOPE VI program for revitalizing public housing communities. He has also been a strong voice for creative ideas that would expand health care and improve educational performance benefitting rural and urban areas alike.

ARTUR has garnered a variety of honors during his tenure on Capitol Hill, including being selected by Esquire Magazine as one of the 10 best Congressmen in America.

As they prepare to leave Congress, I extend my best wishes to ARTUR and his lovely wife, Tara, and thank them both for their honorable service and leadership for the people of Alabama.

#### HONORING DEAN HIRSCH

#### HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2010*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Dean Hirsch for his distinguished career in serving others around the world. Dean recently retired as the long-time president of World Vision International, capping a 34-year career at the humanitarian organization.

World Vision International is a relief organization that serves tens of millions of people in need, in nearly 100 countries around the globe. World Vision is helping to improve the lives of the world's most impoverished people, with a special focus on children. Under Dean Hirsch's leadership, World Vision has worked to alleviate the suffering of those facing both the long-term challenges of endemic poverty,

famine and disease, as well as acute crises, such as the 2004 tsunami.

Throughout his tenure as President, Dean was instrumental in fostering greater cooperation between World Vision and other leading relief and humanitarian organizations, in order to better serve those in need. I had the opportunity to spend time with Dean at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he offered an important voice on addressing the root challenges of poverty. Dean often said that his mission at World Vision was to "help create a world in which no child suffers or dies for lack of food, clean water, shelter or protection from exploitation or war."

I congratulate Dean on a very distinguished career, thank him for his great humanitarian work, and wish him and his wife Wendy all the best as they begin this new phase of their life together.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2010*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 8, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 624. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 624: "yes"—To extend the Child Safety Pilot Program.

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WESLEY A. JAMES

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of a remarkable civic leader who was recently called from us. The Rev. Wesley A. James never held an elected political office, yet his influence over his beloved Mobile, Alabama surpassed many who have.

A native of Mobile and a 1970 graduate of Central High School, Rev. James continued on to the University of South Alabama where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. In 1979 he graduated from Virginia Union University School of Theology where he received a Master of Divinity Degree. He was also active on campus as president of the student body, director of resident life, and an instructor of freshman orientation.

In 1981 he graduated number one in his class from Southwest Police Academy located at Faulkner State Community College in Bay Minette, Alabama. From 1990 to 1995, he was a fellow at Boston University School of Public Health. And, in 1997 he earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree, with emphasis on community development from Virginia Union University School of Theology.

Rev. James took the helm of Franklin Street Missionary Baptist Church in Mobile in 1988, leading the church's ministry until his untimely passing last month. While his role as pastor and spiritual guide for his flock was central to his life's calling, Rev. James took an equally

active role in his community where he served on a wide variety of boards and coalitions.

He was both past chairman and member of the board of the Mobile Water & Sewer Service. He served on the MWSS for twenty years, overseeing a seventy million dollar budget. He also served three years on The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Board.

Leaning on his law enforcement and pastoral backgrounds, Rev. James was both an active member of the National Board of Directors of the Community Coalition For A Drug Free America and a founding member of the Coalition for A Drug Free Mobile County.

He was also moderator of the Mobile Baptist Sunlight Association where he oversaw programs for 87 Baptist churches in Mobile and Washington Counties.

Rev. James was noted for his unbending devotion to local schools and his ability to reach across the community to bring together different views for the common good.

His love of Mobile and its patchwork of communities no doubt inspired his dedication to serve the people on so many different levels.

Madam Speaker, we all mourn the loss of Rev. James and on behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish to extend my condolences to his wonderful wife, Gwendolyn, their children, Sophia, Wesley, Abron, and their extended personal and church family for their loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2010*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 622 and 625, I was absent from the House. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### TRIBUTE TO ISADORE BANKS

#### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2010*

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to Isadore Banks, a proud World War I veteran, important leader in the community, and someone I am proud to say made east Arkansas his home. In June of 1954, Isadore became the victim of a heinous racially charged murder for which his attackers were never found. I ask all my fellow colleagues to stand with me today to honor the memory of this great man and also to condemn such senseless acts of violence in the history of this Nation.

Although born in Georgia, after serving in World War I, Isadore Banks would come to call Crittenden County, Arkansas, home. As a place where racial tensions ran high at the time, Isadore made a name for himself as one of the most successful farmers in the area.

Isadore was acutely aware of troubles faced by the black community. He used his business savvy to help create a cotton gin business that helped to support other black farmers, and would often buy school supplies for black schools around town that were in need. He is

most notable for almost singlehandedly bringing electricity to the town of Marion in the 1920s.

In a time of heavy racial violence, Isadore Banks became an inspiration to the whole community, and something of a political leader. His strength and courage in the face of these challenging times, and his compassion for the plight of his fellow man will serve as a reminder to us all—that we should never carry hate in our hearts, but always love in our actions.

My blessings and prayers go to Isadore's family. We shall never forget him.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF  
NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to recognize the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana and its members for their outstanding community service, and to celebrate the accomplishments of the organization at its 52nd annual meeting, which will take place at the Bernard and Estelle Marcus Jewish Federation Community Building on Sunday, December 12, 2010.

The Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana is a local branch of the larger Jewish Federations of North America. The Jewish Federations of North America has directed its humanitarian efforts toward improving the social conditions of Jews and non-Jews throughout the world since 1940. Currently, this organization serves 155 communities across North America. The Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana, in conjunction with its national and international partners, puts forth significant support toward rescue, relief, and development programs that serve Jewish communities in need in over 60 countries, including Israel, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe.

The Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana's long tradition of community service and involvement in the life of Northwest Indiana is to be commended. This organization continues to support many local organizations through its endowment program and is committed to charity work, helping many in need. The charity programs operated by the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana, for which many members have been honored, include the Food Pantry Drive, Shelter Needs, the Holiday Gift Drive, the Adult Friendship Program, the School Backpack Drive, the Senior Retreat, the High School Prom Dress Drive, the JCY Camp, Movie Night, and K'Ton Ton, its preschool program. The people of Northwest Indiana certainly have been rewarded by the service and uncompromising loyalty displayed by the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana and its members. I congratulate the community service award winners, as they are worthy of the highest praise.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana for its exceptional service and dedication to not only the Northwest Indiana community, but communities worldwide. The

members of this truly outstanding organization continue to touch the lives of countless people, and for their unselfish, lifelong commitment, they are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN PARKER  
GRIFFITH FOR HIS SERVICE TO  
NORTH ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished service of my colleague and friend, Congressman PARKER GRIFFITH, who has tirelessly represented the people of Alabama's Tennessee Valley region during the 111th Congress.

A native of Shreveport, Louisiana, PARKER GRIFFITH spent much of his career in medicine before turning to public service later in life. In 1970, he earned his medical degree from the Louisiana State University Medical School and served in residency at the University of Texas' M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

His medical career includes the LSU Service Charity Hospital in New Orleans and the University of Texas Medical Branch, UTMB, in Galveston, Texas. Dr. GRIFFITH also served as a Medical Corps captain in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1970 to 1973, before later moving to north Alabama.

Dr. GRIFFITH was the first radiation oncologist in north Alabama and a pioneer in the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer. He established the first Comprehensive Cancer Center in north Alabama to treat all types of cancer. As a physician, he provided free and discounted care to patients without insurance.

PARKER retired from medicine in December 1992, and with his wife, Virginia, he co-founded the Griffith Family Foundation, which awards cash grants to elementary school libraries in northern Alabama. Since its establishment in 2005, the foundation has donated over \$50,000 to area schools.

Dr. GRIFFITH's political career began in 2006 when he won a seat in the Alabama State Senate, representing the 7th district, including the Huntsville area. During his term in the State Senate, he worked to improve Alabama's healthcare system, lower taxes and expand early childhood education programs.

In 2008, Dr. GRIFFITH was elected to Congress, representing Alabama's Fifth Congressional District. In the U.S. House, he was selected as a member the influential Energy and Commerce Committee, widely considered one of the three most powerful in the House of Representatives. He also served on the Oversight and Investigations, Energy and Environment and Communications, and Technology and the Internet subcommittees.

During his time in Congress, Dr. GRIFFITH advocated for NASA and the Marshall Space Flight Center, Redstone Arsenal and the TVA—all vital to his district. He also proudly voted to lower taxes, invest in education and create jobs.

As PARKER and his wife, Virginia, leave public service for now and return to Alabama full time, I thank them on behalf of the people of Alabama for their esteemed service and I wish both of them the very best.

SANGRE DE CRISTO NATIONAL  
HISTORIC PARK STUDY

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

SECTION 1.—SANGRE DE CRISTO NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK STUDY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range-San Luis Valley region of Southern Colorado contains some of Colorado's oldest communities and examples of America's rich Spanish-Hispanic history, culture and traditions.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to authorize a study to determine the most effective ways to preserve, protect and interpret the Spanish-Hispanic historic and cultural resources associated with the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range-San Luis Valley region of Southern Colorado.

(c) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall conduct a special resource study of sites along or within the vicinity of the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway in the San Luis Valley to determine whether any such sites may be suitable for inclusion in the National Park System. Sites for study may include, but not be limited to, the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center, San Luis, Costilla County, Colorado; the Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU) building, Antonito, Conejos County, Colorado; the Fort Garland Museum, Fort Garland, Costilla County, Colorado; and the Denver & Rio Grande Antonito Depot, Antonito, Conejos County, Colorado.

(d) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national and international significance of these sites, including—

(A) the history of communities under Spanish rule from 1598 through 1821;

(B) the history of communities under Mexican rule between 1821 and 1848, the date of conclusion of the Mexican American War; and

(C) the post-1848 history of the area under United States' rule including the first non-native American settlements, and the creation of the States of Colorado and New Mexico;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating sites as units of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of these sites by federal, State, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with interested federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations or any other interested individuals; and

(5) identify cost estimates for any federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 8 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—