

quickly and the movement evolved. Today, this group is in full operation across the country and has chapters in 5 other countries.

Local chapters work largely through other child advocacy organizations to launch their "missions," which help children break the chains of abuse by moving beyond the limits of fear from past mistreatment.

A typical "mission" for these children's rights advocates begins with a dispatch from an established organization, with the pre-screened verification in the BACA system. The first meeting is similar to the inaugural model in which local chapter members will ride over to welcome the child into the "family." These knights on shiny motorcycles become a much needed lifeline for these frightened children. There are two members of the group that are assigned to the child as consistent sources of stability. These pioneering bikers then become visible in any area that the child may need them ranging from day-to-day errands to court appearances. These children no longer have to live in fear of their abuser because they are empowered through the newly formed camaraderie with their family at BACA.

The organization's creed is a great testament to the outstanding make up of these individuals. In this creed, they denounce the need for popularity or position, they refuse the right to be right, praised, or recognized. Instead they, "won't give up, shut up, let up, until they have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and showed up for all wounded children. They must go until they drop, ride until they give out, and work till He stops me." These men and women are crusaders that provide attention to a much needed and too often forgotten cause. I commend the selfless action of this organization and celebrate the life changing difference that they've made in the lives of children.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE VIRGIL PITTMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice with many across South Alabama who are mourning the loss of a remarkable jurist who left an indelible mark on our community. Judge Virgil Pittman recently passed away at the age of 95.

Born in 1916 in Coffee County in Southeast Alabama where he picked cotton as a young man, the future state and federal judge spent his life devoted to fairness for all.

Before he began his legal journey, Judge Pittman graduated from Enterprise High School, the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama Law School. Upon completion of his studies, he served as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. After three years with the Bureau, he answered his nation's call to service in World War II, donning the uniform of a United States Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Returning stateside after the war, Judge Pittman practiced law in Gadsden, Alabama, for six years before assuming the post of Judge of Alabama's Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, a position he held for 16 years. In 1966,

Judge Pittman exchanged his State Circuit judgeship robe for one on the federal bench after he was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson. His career as a federal judge encompassed service in the Middle and Southern Districts of Alabama, spanning 40 years.

In 1971, Judge Pittman became the chief judge of the federal court in Mobile. He was never one to shy away from taking tough positions that he believed were right. This made him unpopular with those who opposed his strong stance against Mobile's then citywide commission form of government. Judge Pittman believed the old system was unfair to non whites and those without political influence. He stood his ground and in the end prevailed.

There were times when Judge Pittman's rulings drew criticism from local politicians and the press, but his determination never wavered. The Mobile Press-Register recently editorialized that Pittman brought many changes to the city, noting he "changed Mobile for the better and forever."

If Judge Pittman was an outspoken advocate for civil rights and equal justice for our community he was also a man solely devoted to public service. In all, he sat on the bench for 55 years, taking great pride in his vocation and seeking little reward other than the knowledge that he did what was right.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Lily Lea, their children, Karen, Lee, Joe, Walter, and Lea, and their many grandchildren and friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contribution United States educational institutions have made to innovation and discovery and to congratulate the 13 American universities who were on the list of the top 300 organizations to receive patents from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2010.

I am honored to represent one of these universities, the University of South Florida, USF, whose researchers and students were awarded 83 patents that year. Founded in 1956, USF is currently comprised of four member institutions, located in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee, and Lakeland, FL. One of Florida's leading academic institutions, USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities.

The patents awarded to USF in 2010 cover a wide range of disciplines and could potentially lead to better health care, new fuel cell technologies, improved air purification systems and even future amusement park rides. USF also distinguishes itself as the second most efficient university in research expenditures per patent. This means that USF effectively uses their limited research funding in the development of new patentable products. The University's focus on quality research is a major

component in the growth of new industries in the Tampa Bay area and I am glad that their important work is being recognized.

USF has shown a commitment to encouraging innovation not only on their campus, but also throughout the academic community and, in 2010, founded the National Academy of Inventors, NAI. Upon founding, 131 members joined as Charter Members and since then 24 affiliate chapters have been founded at higher learning institutions around the world, with over 500 individual members. The researchers at our colleges and universities often do not receive the attention they deserve and this non-profit organization works to recognize researchers at universities and their affiliated institutions who translate their findings into inventions that may benefit society.

Since the establishment of our Nation, the United States has recognized the important role that innovation plays in growth and development. Our Nation's Founders were wise enough to include protection for intellectual property rights in Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and every day new advances are being made throughout the country that may one day improve our quality of life, spur economic growth, and lead to new technologies. We must continue to support institutions like USF that promote and encourage advances in research, especially when it leads to the awarding of new patents.

I am privileged to represent the students, teachers, and faculty at USF and extend my congratulations to the University's current and future patent holders. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing their achievements and wish USF continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES BELL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE- TIREMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize one of my constituents from Chicago, James Bell, as he retires from The Boeing Company after 40 years of service to Boeing and its heritage companies. James is retiring as corporate president and chief financial officer of Chicago-based Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company and America's biggest manufacturing exporter. He is the highest-ranking African-American employee in the company's nearly 100 years of history. His legacy at Boeing transcends race and reflects a record of accomplishment, service, and leadership that came during a time of significant change. During Bell's career, Boeing expanded from being primarily a commercial airplane manufacturer to a company with a diverse portfolio of commercial, military, and civil products and businesses. Boeing's workforce, which includes over 170,000 employees, also has become more diverse, and James helped to make it so. James played a critical role in shaping this diverse workforce, sharing his life experiences, modeling outstanding leadership and mentoring others to become the leaders of tomorrow.

James Bell grew up in south central Los Angeles, the youngest of four children of Clyde

Bell, a postman, and Mamie, a county government clerk. During Bell's junior year at Jefferson High School in 1965, the Watts neighborhood erupted in rioting. Though sympathetic to the frustration and despair that sparked the rioting, James reacted to the sad destruction by committing himself to self improvement. He realized that education was the path to future success. In his senior year at Jefferson, Bell was elected student body president in part due to his interest in helping the school retain students and convincing them of the value of education. James studied hard and earned a partial scholarship to California State University at Los Angeles, where he majored in accounting.

James has come a long way since his childhood, but he has stayed close to his roots and to his extended, close-knit family. In his first management job, he learned that he would be supervising several women, all of whom were older than him, so he reached out to his mother for advice. "Always respect them as you would me, and you'll be all right," she counseled him. Following that advice served him well. Bell began his career as a staff accountant with Rockwell in 1972, after earning his bachelor's degree in accounting. He rose steadily, serving in positions of increasing responsibility including manager of accounting and, later, director of business management of the Space Station Electric Power System before becoming vice president in 1996, when Boeing acquired Rockwell's aerospace business. As vice president of contracts and pricing for Boeing Space and Communications, Bell oversaw policy direction, acquisition reform, new business opportunities and program performance, and he also served in business management roles for the International Space Station program.

James was named chief financial officer of Boeing in 2003, a position he held until his retirement. In addition to his CFO duties, he served as chief executive officer of the company for several months in 2005 following the resignation of Boeing's top leader. As the chief financial officer, James was responsible for overall financial management of the company, including oversight of business performance, financial reporting and transparency, and multiple corporate functions including for example Controller, Treasury, Investor Relations, Planning and Contracts and Pricing. Under James' watchful eye and steady hand, Boeing's annual revenues have grown to nearly \$70 billion. While his leadership will be missed, James will remain active in Chicago, serving on the board of directors of J. P. Morgan, Dow Chemical Company, and The Chicago Urban League.

I am honored to celebrate the achievements of Mr. Bell and am hopeful for a prosperous and active retirement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,330,778,119,850.60. We've added \$10,529,372,944,556.32 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, February 1, I inadvertently missed the vote on rollcall 20 (H.R. 3567, the Welfare Integrity Now for Children and Families Act). If I had been present I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 20, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Humane Society of Southern Arizona, which provides services in my district, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for their efforts to help save the lives of shelter animals in the Tucson area. The ASPCA has awarded a \$10,000 grant to The Humane Society of Southern Arizona to support their hard work and innovation in finding homes for animals.

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona is one of 56 animal rescue organizations nationwide that are receiving grant funding for the ASPCA's "Mega Match-a-thon" event, which will take place this spring. The ASPCA is granting nearly half a million dollars to support a host of large-scale adoption events nationwide in an effort to save more lives of shelter animals.

Over its 145 year history, it has been a priority of the ASPCA to help create a nation of humane communities; places where homeless animals are not killed simply because of the lack of space or resources. The Humane Society of Southern Arizona shares this commitment to the humane treatment of animals and stands as an example for communities and shelters nationwide.

On behalf of the citizens and animals of Arizona, I am proud to congratulate both The Humane Society of Southern Arizona and the ASPCA for their continued commitment to protecting animals.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1173) to repeal the CLASS program:

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1173. While my Republican colleagues see H.R. 1173 as a solution to the Department of Health and Human Services' letter to Congress about the CLASS Act, I strongly contend that repeal is not the answer. According to the Department's announcement, there is no viable way forward to implement the CLASS Act at this time but families impacted by accidents and illnesses are also without a viable way forward to meet long-term care needs. The cost of long-term care can be extremely taxing. In 2010, the private-pay rate for a semiprivate room in a nursing home averaged \$205 per day, or about \$75,000 per year. In comparison, the median total household income for elderly Social Security beneficiaries in 2008 was \$20,000 per year. The CLASS Act was established as part of the Affordable Care Act in response to the growing number of citizens with long-term health care needs and the repeal of this act would only impose enormous financial, emotional and physical burdens on these citizens. This is an issue that affects every American family. No one regardless of class, race or creed is exempt from a potential accident or illness requiring long-term care. It is estimated that 15 million Americans will need some kind of long-term care by 2020, but fewer than three percent have a long-term care policy. We should not abandon this effort, rather Congress should come together to find a sustainable solution to address this challenge.

CASE KEENUM—QUARTERBACK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are entire professions devoted to analyzing football statistics. Yards after catch, passer rating, and value over replacement are just a few of the endless minutia studied at a scholar-like level. But at the end of the day, the only statistic that matters is winning. Today I am proud to pay tribute to one of the greatest winners in college football history, record-breaking quarterback Case Keenum from the University of Houston Cougars.

Case was born in Abilene, TX, with football in his blood. His father played for and would later go on to coach McMurry University in Abilene. Abilene is in the heart of west Texas—where football—especially high school football—is regarded by some as almost a religion. I attended Abilene Christian University and witnessed the local high school teams play hard on the gridiron during "Friday Night Lights."