

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REAUTHORIZING CERTAIN VISA PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3245, which reauthorizes the E-Verify Program for three years. E-Verify is an important tool for employers who want to help ensure they are employing legal workers. I believe that there are a few changes that would make E-Verify even more effective and user friendly than it already is, that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) can make without being required to do so statutorily.

Prevention of identity theft in E-Verify is important and USCIS has been taking steps aimed at doing so. For instance, they have created an E-Verify photo match tool for certain individuals so that an employer can match a DHS database photo to the employee standing in front of them. I applaud the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for taking this step and others, and also urge USCIS to fully explore other available identity authentication approaches through pilot programs.

I also support DHS providing employers with a seamless integration of an official, electronic I-9 into E-Verify. The goal of an all-electronic system, instead of a paper-based I-9, was included in E-Verify legislation authored by Chairman SMITH. Combining E-Verify and the I-9 together will be a strong inducement for employers to join E-Verify.

I have discussed these changes by DHS with the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, LAMAR SMITH, who has expressed his support.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend International Dot Day. This September 15th marks the annual celebration of International Dot Day, which encourages students' creativity by asking them to make their own unique mark on the world. This year's celebration will involve more than half of a million children in all fifty states and on six continents.

International Dot Day was inspired by the children's book "The Dot" by Peter H. Reynolds. The book tells the story of a student named Vashti who doubts her own abilities as an artist until her teacher encourages her to make a single mark on the page. The single dot she creates in art class and her teacher's encouragement starts a journey of creativity and discovery for Vashti who goes on to in-

spire other students to be creative in their own ways.

Mr. Speaker, creativity and genius are important attributes for students of all ages to pursue, and I applaud my constituent Terry Shay, an educator from Waterloo, IA, who founded Dot Day in 2009, to inspire his students to make their own mark. Mr. Shay has helped inspire other educators around the world to encourage their own students by sharing the message in Peter Reynolds' inspirational book.

I would like to take this opportunity to officially recognize September 15th as International Dot Day, and I wish Mr. Shay and other educators well as they continue encouraging creativity in their students.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JANET L. COBB, USAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend congratulations to a distinguished South Alabamian who was recently promoted to the rank of major general in the United States Army Reserve. Maj. Gen. Janet Cobb's service to her country is a credit to the professionalism and dedication of our military and we are proud to have her call South Alabama home.

Maj. Gen. Cobb is a graduate of Foley High School and the University of Alabama. After enlisting in the Army Reserve in 1974, she was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in May 1978 from the University of Alabama ROTC program. Maj. Gen. Cobb is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

Maj. Gen. Cobb has commanded at the Detachment, Battalion, Brigade, General Officer and Directorate command levels. Her deployments include 1184th Transportation Terminal Unit, Saudi Arabia (July–November 1991), 1184th Transportation Terminal Battalion, Port of Ash Shuaybah, Kuwait (November 2002–May 2003), 598th Transportation Group (Terminal) Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2007), and the Central Command Deployment & Distribution Operations Center, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait (2011). In July 2012, Maj. Gen. Cobb completed a six-month mobilization at the Pentagon where she served as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations), Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (G-4). She is currently assigned to the Pentagon as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Mobilization and Training (Reserve Component Integration), Department of the Army (G-4).

While still a colonel, Janet commanded the 1184th Transportation Terminal Battalion from Mobile during the second Gulf War. Of her service, the Mobile Press Register observed, "Under Cobb's command, the 1184th became well-known among coalition forces in Kuwait

not only for unloading a record amount of U.S. military cargo through a Kuwaiti port in 2003, but also for staging a Mobile-style Mardi Gras parade over there, in which Moon Pies, beads and cups were thrown."

Her awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf clusters, and the Joint Achievement Medal.

In civilian life, Maj. Gen. Cobb is employed with Kaiser Realty, Inc. in Gulf Shores. She is a resident of the Barnwell community in south Baldwin County.

Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Alabamians in not only expressing deep pride in Maj. Gen. Cobb's contributions to her country, but also in offering our heartfelt congratulations for her recent promotion and wish her all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING PACIFIC METALLURGICAL AS A FINALIST FOR THE 2012 KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pacific Metallurgical in Kent, Washington for being named a finalist for the 2012 King County Executive's Small Business Awards, in the Exporting Small Business of the Year category. The Exporting Small Business award is given to small businesses that have increased international sales in new and existing markets.

Pacific Metallurgical is an innovative heat treating business that was founded in 1967. The family-owned company was one of the first commercial heat-treat suppliers in the King County region. The company has since grown and the company is today offering new equipment and technology worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Pacific Metallurgical. Advanced companies like Pacific Metallurgical help to stimulate our local and national economies through trade and growth.

TRIBUTE TO ALABAMA BUSINESSMAN, LARRY DRUMMOND

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Elbert Allen "Larry" Drummond, Vice Chairman of Drummond Company, Inc., who passed away on July 30, 2012, at the age 68. Larry Drummond was a leader among the Alabama business community and a devotee to preserving Alabama's abundance of natural resources.

Larry Drummond was born August 3, 1943, in Birmingham. His early life was spent with

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his family in the Walker County town of Sipsey. His father had been a coal miner for Debardeleben Coal Company and had decided in 1935 to start his own mine, the beginning of what is now Drummond Company, Inc.

He attended Walker County High School in Jasper where he was co-captain and named to the all-county football team. He also played baseball at Walker and was selected for the East-West All-Star Game in Birmingham.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama in 1965. He also earned a master's degree in accounting the following year before entering the University of Alabama School of Law, where he was awarded the Juris Doctor degree in 1969. During breaks in college, Larry worked in various areas of Drummond Coal operations—preparing a site for mining, drilling at a new mine, cleaning coal for loading, and work at other operations.

Returning home with his law degree in hand, he rejoined his family's company. Over the years, he was heavily involved with domestic and international coal sales. Along with his brothers, Larry was instrumental in fostering business relationships with Japan that continue today. He later assumed additional complex responsibilities as Vice Chairman of the corporation and Chairman of its Executive Committee.

Larry was active in a variety of civic and educational organizations in Walker County and Alabama. He was a member of the Alabama and the American Bar Associations. At the University of Alabama, he was a member of the President's Cabinet and of the Board of Visitors of the Culverhouse School of Commerce. The Culverhouse School recognized him in 2003 with a Career Achievement Award.

He served on the boards of the Walker Area Community Foundation and the Alabama Conservation and Natural Resources Foundation. He also served as a board member for the Alabama Conservation and Natural Resources Foundation and the American Family Business Institute. He was a member of United Way of Central Alabama's Le Societe National. In 2011 Larry was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor and into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Larry also possessed an abiding love for the outdoors and enjoyed working closely with the Boy Scouts of America. He was a director of the Black Warrior Council of the Boy Scouts, which presented him with the Silver Beaver Award.

His leadership of one of Alabama's top energy companies and his stewardship of our environmental resources will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Abbie; brothers, Garry and John; daughter, Terri; sons, Scott and Patrick; five grandchildren, extended family and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

TAKE POLITICS OUT OF POST OFFICE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to take politics out the Post Office.

In 2006, Congress passed legislation that forced the United States Postal Service to pre-fund 100 percent of retiree health and insurance premiums. No other company, public or private, is forced to comply with this inherently destructive policy.

On September 30, of this year, the law requires a payment of \$5.6 billion to fund pension obligations. This will do more than cost the USPS precious dollars. It also threatens the very life of the postal service and it will cost hard-working postal employees the dignity and respect that goes along with a hard day's work.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans cited declining physical mail volumes and a growing USPS labor force as the primary reasons why the 2006 legislation was necessary. Yet, 2005, 2006, and 2007 were the highest volume years in the USPS's 200 year history. In fact, 2006 was the highest volume year ever for the USPS. And how did House Republicans expect the Postal Service to deal with the additional 2 million addresses being added to their delivery routes each year? By hoping and praying that the mail gets delivered?

Mr. Speaker, the 2006 legislation was solely intended to break the back of a public sector union and privatize the mailing industry. Why else would Congress alter an entity that hasn't used a dime of tax payer's money in 30 years?

According to the Congressional Research Service, the USPS was self-supporting since 1971, using revenues from postage sales to fund its operating costs. In fact, the Postal Service was so profitable, Mr. Speaker, that it returned money to the Treasury every single year while providing free services to visually impaired persons and overseas voters. If the Postal Service were a private corporation during that time, my colleagues across the aisle would have hailed it as the model of economic success and sung its praises from sea to shining sea for paying dividends to shareholders.

In the years after Republicans dumped the pre-funding mandate into the lap of the USPS, the Postal Service has nearly crumbled under the weight of spiking pension costs. Mr. Speaker, how does an organization that had robust profits for 30 plus years leading up to the 2006 legislation suddenly start running deficits and lose \$25.4 billion between 2007 and 2011? How did the USPS go from no debt in 2006 to over \$13 billion in debt today?

The answer is simple—my friends across the aisle wanted to continue their assault on public sector unions. They chose to pass a bill they knew would cause massive deficits for the USPS. They chose to commit the USPS to payments they knew it could not afford. They created this problem for the USPS and now they refuse to be part of the solution.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans should abide by the phrase "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Many of my colleagues on the other side have well-connected friends, such as the Koch Brothers, who publicly advocate for postal service privatization. I am here to connect the dots for the American people. I repeat, we must "take politics out of the post office."

Instead of wasting time today, we should vote to stop the damage inflicted upon the USPS by this body and remove these absurd constraints by passing H.R. 1351, the United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act. We must pro-

tect the hard working employees of the Postal Service by passing legislation to fix this blunder.

The USPS was not in danger of becoming insolvent until Congress decided to meddle in its affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the Postal Service already missed a \$5.5 billion payment in August. This body must act before the Post Office defaults on another payment later this month. Instead of scheduling symbolic votes that highlight our differences, let's stop the madness and do what is best for the American people, the economy, and communities across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we keep our Postal Service in good financial standing. The Postal Service employs 700,000 of our fellow citizens, 17,751 of whom are in the state of Georgia; one third are military veterans who deliver 212 billion pieces of mail to over 144 million locations.

If big corporations and the Koch Brothers get their wish, the Postal Service will slowly be destroyed, causing good jobs to be lost and allowing companies to raise prices of delivery.

The American people deserve a Postal Service reform bill that will allow the Post Office to continue its operations and not reduce or restructure them.

Taking action to strengthen the Postal Service's finances is not just good for letter carriers and post masters, it is also good for business. There is a \$1.3 trillion mailing industry in the U.S. that supports between 7–8 million private sector jobs that is heavily dependent on a healthy and efficient Postal Service.

The time to act is now.

WELCOMING THE EIGHTH HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA TO WASHINGTON, DC

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Honor Flight South Alabama and the World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing on its eighth flight to Washington, D.C. on September 19, 2012.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from southwest Alabama to see their national memorial.

Almost seven decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly as long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you," yet for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

This Honor Flight begins at dawn when the veterans will gather at historic Fort Whiting in Mobile and travel to Mobile Regional Airport to board a chartered flight to Washington. During their time in their nation's capital, the veterans will visit the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other memorials.