

founded by their ancestors 142 years ago has contributed to our society.

The most notable member of the family was Colonel John Stevens III. During the Revolutionary War, he was appointed to be a captain in Washington's Army at age twenty-seven. Later he was promoted to Colonel, and collected taxes for the American cause as Treasurer of New Jersey. After the war in 1784, he purchased land that is now Hoboken, and includes the current campus for Stevens Institute of Technology.

In 1798, Colonel Stevens was the first inventor to build and sail a steamboat on the Hudson River. The Colonel's boiler design, his twin screw propellers, and the steam ferry he ran between Hoboken and New York were among his many outstanding "firsts." His steam ship, the Phoenix, captained by his son Robert was also the first steamship to sail the ocean, in 1809. On land, Colonel Stevens purchased the first American locomotive, the "John Bull." The John Bull is now on display at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC.

The Colonel's sons also developed an aptitude for innovative engineering. His son Robert invented the T-rail for railroads, which is still in use today on railroads throughout the world. Robert also invented the ferry slip, a supporting iron rod for projecting guard beams on steamboats, and made several other improvements to ferries and steamboats. A second son, Edwin A. Stevens, founded the university as a part of his estate. Edwin built and operated New Jersey's first railroad. His experiments also resulted in the iron-clad warship. A third son, John Cox Stevens, was a sailor and joined the syndicate that built the schooner "America" and became the first winner of the famed America's Cup racing series. He also founded the New York Yacht Club and this year was inducted into the Yachting Hall of Fame, on October 13, 2012 at a ceremony held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Other notable Stevens family descendants throughout the years include former Member of Congress, Millicent Fenwick (R-NJ), who was also appointed by President Reagan as the first U.S. Ambassador to the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, a U.S. Ambassador to Spain, a casualty and a survivor from the Lusitania, a member of the first class of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, the current CEO of Habitat for Humanity International and more.

I applaud the John Stevens Family for all of their contributions and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their great accomplishments. I wish them all continued success and thank them for their dedication to making New Jersey and our country greater for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH KING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate a distinguished member of the Alabama business community, Mr. Keith King, P.E., who is soon to retire from Volkert & Associates, Inc., after 52 years of service.

A 1958 graduate of Auburn University's School of Civil Engineering, Keith King was

hired by David G. Volkert as a project engineer in 1960.

Over the last five decades, Mr. King has witnessed many changes in the Mobile-headquartered engineering company which has grown to become one of the top-ranked engineering, planning, and environmental consulting firms in the United States.

Keith served as president from 1983 until 2007 and CEO until 2011. Volkert, Inc. has grown continuously and opened operations centers in 11 States employing over 600 associates.

As an accomplished professional engineer, licensed in eight States, Keith King has obtained national recognition for many of the projects he has engineered and managed. He was Chief Engineer for the Interstate 10 Twin Bridges over Mobile Bay, which was named one of the Ten Outstanding Engineering Achievements of 1978 by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).

He was principal-in-charge of the Alabama State Docks' McDuffie Coal Export Facility Project, which in 1984 received the Engineering Excellence Award from the American Consulting Engineers Council of Alabama.

In 1992, Volkert's Cochrane/Africatown U.S.A. Bridge over the Mobile River was named one of the Outstanding Engineering Achievements by NSPE and received the Federal Highway Administration Award of Excellence.

All three of these projects are in the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame. Mr. King, himself was inducted in 2001 and Volkert, Inc. was honored in 2002.

Keith has worked hard to improve the areas of licensure, continuing professional development, ethical standards, and professionalism. His involvement includes two terms on the Alabama Licensure Board, the Business Council of Alabama (Chairman, 2000–2001); Alabama Society of Professional Engineers (President); National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) (Vice President-Southeast; Chairman, National Membership Committee and Licensure and Qualifications for Practice Committee); Fellow Member of American Society of Civil Engineers and NSPE; Member of the American Consulting Engineers Council.

He remains actively involved with Auburn University, where he has chaired the Auburn Alumni Engineering Council and served on the Auburn University Board of Directors.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Keith and his lovely wife, Julia, as well as their entire family. Additionally, I wish them both a long and happy retirement, including plenty of deep-sea fishing.

CONGRATULATING THE NIGHT-HAWKS OF NORTHERN GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying that goes, the "third time is a charm." In the case of the football team at Northern Guilford High School, the new expression should be, the "third time is perfection." That is because this football team, located in the

Sixth District of North Carolina, just won its third straight state high school football championship. This time, however, the title capped a perfect 15–0 season.

On December 1, 2012, the Nighthawks of Northern Guilford High School defeated Charlotte Catholic 64–26 to capture its third consecutive NCHSAA Class 3-AA championship. Senior T.J. Logan led the way by rushing for an unbelievable 510 yards and scoring eight touchdowns. This was the third straight title for longtime Head Coach Johnny Roscoe. In 2010, Northern Guilford went 14–2 to win the first championship. In 2011, the Nighthawks completed a 14–1 season to secure its second straight title. This year, no one stopped the Nighthawks on the way to a 15–0 season that culminated in their third crown in three years.

What is left for Northern Guilford to accomplish following this three-year run? I'm sure Coach Roscoe, always the perfectionist, could point to many areas for improvement during the season and the title contest. But it is hard to argue against perfection. I think Ed Hardin, the outstanding sports columnist for the (Greensboro) News & Record stated it best: "We might never see anything like this again in these parts," Hardin wrote, "and in the coming years we'll look back and debate about this team. Was it the best we ever saw? Was the remarkably talented (T.J.) Logan the best player we ever produced in Guilford County? You could make that argument. The game played out like the season. Fast start, confounding moments and then brilliance."

That brilliance was a team effort all the way and led by Coach Roscoe, who has been around football for four decades. Coach Roscoe was ably assisted by Brian Thomas, Ben Hepler, Richard Burton, Todd Sharp, Lee Meekins, Chris Vaughan, Chris Harris, and Justin Davis. All of these coaches will tell you that the Nighthawks' perfect season was also due to the fine efforts provided by Team Trainer Justin Ollis, Assistant Trainer Valerie Smith, Team Physician Kirstin Shepperson and Team Managers Jenne Livingston, Sydney Monroe, Taylor Phillips, Ashlyn Thomas, and Mercedes Wiglesworth, along with Ball Boy Britt Thomas.

Every one of the 2012 champion Nighthawks can take pride in the completion of this perfect season. They include: Tre Purcell, C.J. Freeman, Brett Welch, Cameron Harris, Mook Reynolds, Robert Willcox, T.J. Logan, AJ Love, Nick Jones, Austin Coltrane, Justin Wallace, Daniel Kelly, Matt Page, Burney Sindab, Tucker Hord, Molick Scott, Chris Ripberger, Malik Parker, Matthew McGarry, Max Maynard, Rory Bergen, Bernard Sindab, T.J. Ruff, Josh Parker, Johnny Loflin, Jacob King, Ryan Johnston, Nick Fryer, Mason Monroe, TyShawn Reese, Austin Simmons, Josh Covington, Max Klietsch, Dylan Hakala, Trey French, Eric Hong, Josh Steele, Kamen Smith, Chris Forlano, Trevor McKee, Steven Branz, Jalen Hollins, Malik Hampton-Prileau, Andrew Keen, John Wagoner, Tristen Simmons, Alex Hasler, Carlos Williams, Terrell Headen, Bret Unkel, and Duncan Taylordean.

A winning season also requires support from school administrators and leaders and Northern Guilford has a winning team there, too. Congratulations are appropriate for Principal Will Laine, Assistant Principals Doug Foutty and Travis Ward, and Athletic Director Brian Thomas. All can take pride in three straight state championships.

Last, but far from least, we have to mention Nighthawk Nation. I am sure that everyone associated with the football team will tell you that Northern Guilford's formidable fan base spurred them on to victory. No doubt that the students, parents, faculty, staff, and supporters of Northern Guilford football are beaming with pride following a third state championship.

The seniors on this team will move on to their next adventures. For the returning Nighthawks, I am sure they have already begun their dreams of four in a row. If that happens, I plan to be back here again next year offering my own congratulations. For now, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate and thank the football team at Northern Guilford High School for showing us how perfection can be achieved. The third time is a charm indeed.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS FOR THE NE COAST OF THE U.S.

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China (ROC), also known as Taiwan. Immediately after Hurricane Sandy hit the the Northeast coast on October 29th and 30th, many foreign governments and non-governmental organizations offered generous help to the United States. The Republic of China government (Taiwan) offered \$1.3 million to aid in relief and reconstruction efforts.

On November 16th Taiwan donated \$1 million to two charities, United Way International and Habitat for Humanity International, two of the leading relief agencies. The rest of the funds were distributed to the state governments of New York and New Jersey, which were among the hardest hit areas.

A ceremony marking the transfer of funds to the two charities was held in Washington, DC, on December 6, 2012. On behalf of the current 11th Congressional District, soon to be the 9th Congressional district of New York, I recognize the ROC for their generous contribution and show of good will towards the United States. As parts of the Northeast coast continue to rebuild, on behalf of my constituents, I am grateful to those who have offered their assistance. I thank the ROC and look forward to continuing a long lasting and fruitful friendship.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR HARRY MASON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions of a remarkable public servant and dear friend, Mayor Harry Mason. In November, Mayor Mason retired after 20 years as chief executive of Pine Hill, Alabama.

In his best-selling 1998 book, *The Greatest Generation*, former NBC Television anchor Tom Brokaw told the story of what he believed was the greatest generation any society has ever produced. "... These men and women fought not for fame and recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. When they came back they rebuilt America into a superpower."

Harry Mason was a product of that historic generation; a native of Southwest Alabama, a hardworking local businessman, and citizen who stepped up to serve his country and his home town because it was the right thing to do.

As an assistant engineer in the Merchant Marine during World War II, Harry was aboard the S.S. Sea Porpoise when it landed 3,000 troops on the beaches of Normandy during the second wave of the famous D-Day invasion to liberate France. On July 5, 1944, the S.S. Sea Porpoise was damaged by a German mine. The ship's complement of 159 crew and passengers, including Harry, were uninjured and the ship survived.

When he returned stateside to civilian life, like so many others of our "Greatest Generation" Harry eagerly rejoined the workforce helping his father run the family business. He invested his life and his heart in Pine Hill, and according to a recent article in the *Thomasville Times*, Harry wouldn't have had it any other way. "Except for the war, I never even entertained a thought of going somewhere else," he told the paper.

It wasn't long before Harry turned his passion to public service, first as a member of the Wilcox County Board of Education during the tumultuous 1960s and 70s. In 1991, he left his family business of running the Economy Store and instead ran for mayor.

Looking back at 20 years of leading his town, he has much for which to be proud. An expansion of the Pine Hill's water and sewer system and city limits come to mind. Perhaps most notably during his last year in office, Pine Hill landed one of the largest industries to come to Southwest Alabama in years. Harry joined state and local officials in welcoming Golden Dragon Copper to the Pine Hill area in February. When completed, this new factory is expected to employ 300 workers with the potential to reach 500.

An active presence in the community, Mayor Harry Mason has also served as a member of the board of the Bank of Pine Hill. However, of all his many accomplishments, Harry points to his 20 years' service as chief of the Pine Hill Volunteer Fire Department as his greatest.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I wish Harry and his wonderful wife, Mittie, the very best for a well-deserved and duly-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed rollcall votes 629 and 630. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

Rollcall 629—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—"yes."

Rollcall 630—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment—"yes."

IN TRIBUTE TO HOWARD AND SUSAN GROFF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to my good friends, entrepreneurs and patriots Howard and Susan Groff.

The Groffs have owned Northwest Excavating Co., Inc. since the 1960s. Howard's father, Bob Groff, founded the company in 1959 under the name "Northwest Compaction." The company started out modestly, with two backhoes, an Arrow hammer, a skidloader, and a Gradall.

During the first few years, Northwest focused primarily on renting equipment and operators to local grading and sewer contractors. The company prospered during the 1960s due to the ever-increasing construction throughout Southern California. While maintaining a conservative approach towards growth, the company slowly added equipment to its fleet.

During the mid- to late 1960s, Howard and Sue bought the company. Howard often worked as equipment operator, mechanic, lowbed driver, or anything else that needed to be done, while Sue managed the finances. Howard, much like his father before him, undertook a conservative management approach toward the company. During the late 1960s and into the early 1970s, the company grew at a steady pace.

As a result of the company's early experience working for underground sewer contractors, Northwest began an underground utilities division. This division dug trenches for power and telephone lines by the foot, then backfilled and compacted the trenches. Howard did all the estimating and ran most of the jobs. He is now acting CEO while his son Robert has taken over the daily management duties. Sue has stepped aside from the financial end.

Howard and Sue owned and operated, along with their son Michael, Northridge Equipment Rental in five locations in California, which they sold in 2005. The Groffs have also developed, owned, and managed office and industrial buildings throughout the San Fernando Valley.

For more than 30 years, the Groffs owned their own auto racing teams with their sons as drivers, which included racing in the Indy 500 for several years. Howard and Sue also are major supporters of our military and veterans and have been a major sponsor of my U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly and Friends Operation Toy Drop at Naval Base Ventura County. In addition to voting in every election, they also actively support candidates who share their fiscal conservative convictions.

In addition to their sons Michael and Robert, Howard and Sue have a daughter, Debra, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to my friends Howard and Susan Groff for proving that conservative growth can build successful businesses and for proving their love for America by their generosity to our military men and women and by