

Champions. In 2011, Norm announced his retirement just weeks after being awarded the nation's Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.

Throughout his 48-year football career, Norm has held himself to the highest standards of professionalism and commitment. His success as a defensive coach is only matched by his impact as a positive role model for countless young Iowans, on and off the field. Whether you are a fan of the Hawkeyes, the Cyclones, the Bulldogs or the Panthers, there is no denying the profound impact Coach Parker has had on college football and the state of Iowa in general.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Iowa sportscaster Jon Miller said it best when he proclaimed, "Simply put, Iowa football would not be Iowa football without Norm Parker. Iowa football will have a tough time remaining Iowa football without Norm Parker." The impact Coach Parker has had on Hawkeye football and the state of Iowa will be evident for decades. Even as a Cyclone, it is my distinct honor to represent all college football fans across Iowa, the nation, and in the United States Congress, in thanking Coach Norm Parker for his commitment and dedication to the sport of football, his students, and the people of Iowa and wishing Norm and his wife Linda a long, happy and healthy retirement with much less stressful Saturdays.

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**U.S. DOLLARS SHOULD CREATE  
JOBS FOR U.S. WORKERS**

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, we have to ensure that U.S. workers get jobs. So, today I am introducing legislation that requires that on federally funded construction projects in my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, at least 60 percent of the workforce has to be U.S. workers.

It is just common-sense: U.S. dollars should employ U.S. workers.

There is a threshold. This legislation only applies to projects that cost more than \$100,000. We do not want to enact a law that unnecessarily delays spending or over-regulates business.

But for larger projects funded with federal dollars—and in the Northern Marianas this means road construction, modernizing schools, putting in water lines—we need to make sure that the local, U.S. workers get most of the jobs. We need to make a stand for U.S. workers and for the families they support.

I know that our national economy is still pulling itself out of the worst recession since the 1930s. Although we have seen almost 4 million jobs created in the last two years, we still have unacceptably high levels of unemployment.

But, if you can imagine, in the Northern Marianas the situation is worse—and not improving. Even before the national recession began our economy was sinking. Our island gross domestic product has gone down every year since 2005—20 percent in 2009, the last year the Bureau of Economic Analysis has computed.

We do not have unemployment data for the Northern Marianas, but we do know that our population has shrunk from 69,000 in 2000 to 54,000 in 2010. People have left because jobs have disappeared. I can say from personal observation and from talking with my constituents that there are many people in the Northern Marianas who want work and cannot get a job.

I know, too, that many of the local, U.S. workers in the Marianas, who want to work are being passed over for the jobs that do exist.

We have something like 11,000 foreign workers today in the Northern Marianas. One has to ask: how can we have so many foreign workers, when there are U.S. workers unemployed, who want to work.

Something is not right.

The workers I talk to have skills. They have a good work ethic. They are employable. Yet they are being passed over.

We have to do more in this Congress for these U.S. workers. At the very least, we can say that when we appropriate federal dollars for construction projects in the Northern Marianas, those funds will put U.S. workers on the payroll.

We are not even asking that all the workers be U.S. workers, only that most are U.S. workers. We understand that there may be some specialty skills U.S. workers do not have. Maybe there will be numerical shortages that need to be filled.

But as long as we know that there are U.S. workers, who want jobs, who need to work, then let us make very sure that the federal dollars we provide to the Northern Mariana Islands put those U.S. workers to work.

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**HONORING ALVIN BENN, RECIPIENT  
OF THE ALABAMA PRESS  
ASSOCIATION LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Alabama's best known and most respected journalists, Mr. Alvin Benn, who this week is being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Press Association.

Perhaps there's a measure of irony in the fact that the man who has become synonymous with both covering and capturing Alabama history and culture, in a way that only a Southern native could, actually hails from the North. Al Benn was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country on April 25, 1940.

After graduating from Manheim Township High School in 1958, he enlisted in the Marine Corps where he served his country for six years. He was stationed at Cherry Point, NC with the Second Marine Air Wing and at Okinawa, Japan, where he worked for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. After returning stateside, he completed military journalism school at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and briefly attended East Carolina College while at Cherry Point.

His long journey chronicling the history of our region began as a newly minted cor-

respondent for United Press International covering the burgeoning Civil Rights movement. As he details in his 2006 book, "Reporter: Covering Civil Rights . . . and Wrongs in Dixie," Al Benn not only interviewed the major leaders of both sides of this historic struggle—including Dr. Martin Luther King and Governor George C. Wallace—but he used his fearless quest of news to take him to some of the most unsettling venues to get the unvarnished true story.

After two and a half years as UPI's Birmingham bureau chief, Al Benn took on the roles of writer, photographer, editor and publisher at newspapers in Alabama, including the Selma Times-Journal and the Montgomery Advertiser. He also crossed over the state line to work at the Natchez Democrat where he and his news staff were nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Although he officially retired in 2003, Al Benn continues to write his widely read column, "Al Benn's Alabama", for the Montgomery Advertiser.

In commenting about his life's work, Al Benn once observed: "Journalistic integrity cannot be duplicated. That's all reporters really have. We never make much money. What we can leave behind is a good name in our chosen profession. I hope I've done just that. There are those who will disagree but I've tried to be as fair as I could be."

I have never known a more professional, articulate and even-handed reporter than Al Benn. On behalf of the people of Alabama, I offer my congratulations to Al, and I wish him and his wife, Sharon, and their family a future full of happiness.

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**RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Streamwood, Illinois, in my district.

St. John the Evangelist celebrated its first Mass with approximately 300 families in June of 1962. In September of 1962, the parish began constructing its first building which served as a church and school. Five years later, due to the rapid growth of the Catholic population of Streamwood, the Cardinal approved the parish's request for the construction of a permanent church building.

Over the last 50 years, St. John the Evangelist has continued to grow. Currently, there are more than 2,660 families registered in the parish. Reaching out to the youth in the community, St. John the Evangelist School has 228 students from kindergarten through the eighth grade, and plans to have 300 students by 2013. St. John the Evangelist also has 331 students enrolled in evening and weekend religious education programs.

Reaching out to the community, St. John the Evangelist's parish has participated in community activities and events that have helped make Streamwood a great place for families to live, play, learn and worship. Annually, St. John the Evangelist sponsors the Bingo table at the Streamwood Fest.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing this 50th Anniversary as we celebrate St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church's legacy of faith and service.

CONGRATULATING QUEEN P.  
(POLLY) NELSON FOR HER  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Queen P. (Polly) Nelson on her retirement from the Internal Revenue Service.

Polly started her career in the federal government working with the U.S. Army where she handled monthly payroll checks. At one point she was in charge of mailing 30 thousand monthly salary checks for soldiers throughout the U.S. and overseas. After the Army she worked for numerous federal agen-

cies including: Federal Highway Administration, Social Security Administration, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Federal Housing Administration where she briefly served in the Disaster Program.

Ms. Nelson eventually made her way to the Internal Revenue Service where she faithfully served for over 34 years. She currently works in the Small Business/Self Employed (SB/SE) division where they provide small business owners with top quality service by educating and informing them of their tax obligations, developing educational products and services, and helping them understand and comply with applicable tax laws. Polly currently serves in the SB/SE division as an Audit Aide and Group Clerk/Secretary for the Examination division. She is responsible for assisting auditors in performing their duties as well as time input, assigning work, reports, filing, and numerous other essential daily duties. Through her 34 plus years she earned 12 manager and performance awards, and one Sustained Superior Performance Award. She is a testament to the dedication and superb performance of our public servants in all federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Queen P. (Polly) Nelson on her retirement beginning March 30, 2012. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant in the Internal Revenue Service and I wish her well in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcalls 34 and 35. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for these measures.

H. Res. 537: On Agreeing to the Resolution, rollcall No. 34.

H.R. 1162: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, rollcall No. 35.