

or engaging in the annual tasks required by law and custom, Mr. Foster and his staff were responsive and thoughtful as they offered their best professional efforts.

Mr. Foster began his career in the Federal government in 1973 at the Social Security Administration (SSA), working on the development of Medicare payment rates for health maintenance organizations when Medicare was managed through the SSA. He later served as Deputy Chief Actuary at SSA for 13 years before being selected as the CMS Chief Actuary in 1995.

OACT's role is often behind-the-scenes, but critically important. Mr. Foster has been widely recognized for his tireless efforts to ensure that Congress and the Administration have access to high-quality, objective actuarial, economic, and statistical assistance, provided independently and on a nonpartisan basis and often with a dose of good humor. His adherence to the highest levels of professional independence and ethical conduct has been widely acclaimed and is deeply appreciated.

In addition to his exceptional actuarial and other technical skills, Mr. Foster was an accomplished leader at CMS. He led OACT's implementation of team-based operations in 1995, based on the successful model developed by General Electric. He emphasized professional development for all staff, continuous improvement in all projects, a cordial, cooperative work environment and a multi-disciplinary approach to work. Under his guidance, the Office of the Actuary achieved the highest or second-highest results in the annual human capital survey every year since its inception.

During his career, Mr. Foster has earned numerous prestigious awards, including the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Outstanding Alumnus of the Year in 1997, the Presidential Meritorious Executive Award in 1998 from President Clinton, the Presidential Distinguished Executive Award in 2001 from President Bush, the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service in 2004, the College of Wooster Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006, the Robert J. Myers Public Service Award from the American Academy of Actuaries in 2006, and the Society of Actuaries President's Award in 2010. The readers of *Modern Healthcare* magazine voted him one of the 100 most influential persons in health care in the U.S. for the last six years.

We are pleased to honor and commend Rick Foster for his distinguished career in public service and wish him all the best in retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 429 I was unavoidably detained at a personal doctor's appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### RECOGNIZING ALEX BREGMAN

### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alex Bregman, an exceptional New Mexican, for his outstanding athletic achievements and for his contributions to the Albuquerque community. An Albuquerque Academy graduate, Alex recently completed his freshman year at Louisiana State University, where he was a standout on the baseball team.

After a stellar career at Albuquerque Academy, Alex was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the 2012 MLB Draft, but chose instead to attend LSU. From the moment he stepped on the field in Baton Rouge, Alex has made a tremendous impact.

As the starting varsity shortstop this past season, Alex batted .369, with 18 doubles, seven triples, six home runs and 52 RBI, helping lead the LSU Tigers to a berth in the College World Series. His 104 base hits ranked second in the entire nation. After a season like that, it is no wonder that the honors and awards started piling up for Alex. He was selected as a first-team All-American and the SEC Freshman of the Year. Baseball America, Collegiate Baseball Magazine and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association each named Alex as their National Freshman of the Year. The College Baseball Hall of Fame recognized Alex as the 2013 Brooks Wallace National Shortstop of the Year.

This summer, Alex played with the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team, where he batted .361, led the team in hits and total bases, and tied for the lead in doubles.

Players, coaches, scouts and even opponents are quick to praise Alex's incredible work ethic and his insatiable desire to become a better ballplayer. He will often go out to the baseball field at 10 o'clock at night to practice.

Alex is not only a fantastic athlete; he is a fine young man. After winning the National Shortstop of the year award, Alex, ever humble, remarked, "This is a team award and I have to thank all of my great teammates." Because of his commitment to setting and achieving high educational and personal goals, Alex serves as an unparalleled role model for other young people and for the entire Albuquerque community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Alex in the United States House of Representatives, and I am proud to consider the entire Bregman family my dear friends.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF RITA GLEASON

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rita Gleason, the Principal of Notre Dame High School in Belmont California, upon her retirement after 22 years of service to the school and to our community. During her tenure, Ms. Gleason has been an inspiration to 3,500 girls who have been educated at Notre Dame.

I am a graduate of a Catholic girl's high school and I deeply believe that these institutions build character, leadership abilities and self-esteem. Ms. Gleason shares those values and works tirelessly to ensure that every young woman who goes to Notre Dame achieves her fullest potential. Students are encouraged to become deeply involved in community service and Ms. Gleason models that commitment through her work with immigrants and the economically challenged. The young women of Notre Dame benefit from a rigorous curriculum sustained in part by the generosity of its alumni. These graduates give because Ms. Gleason is a continuing force in their own lives many years after they leave the campus.

Rita Gleason is known as a person who listens closely to students. The young women of Notre Dame know that they have a confidante in Ms. Gleason, and a supporter who will work with them if they want to work through their difficult problems. At a recent conference that I helped to convene on the subject of gun violence within communities, experts noted how important it is for students to have an adult in whom they can confide. At Notre Dame High School, the go-to adult is Rita Gleason. Every parent can have confidence that she will offer wisdom, compassion, and a steady set of values that will empower students through their difficult moments.

Great leaders have great staff and Ms. Gleason is no exception. Teachers want to teach at Notre Dame because they know that they will be supported by a professionally-trained educator. Ms. Gleason has a credential in K-12 and adult education, a community college credential, and a credential in History, English and the Humanities. She graduated with a BA from the College of Notre Dame and with two Master's degrees—one in Educational Administration and the other in Counseling. Her resume reads like a famous musician's—every box indicating genius was checked during Ms. Gleason's passionate pursuit of knowledge.

Befitting the Principal of a private high school, Ms. Gleason has long been involved in the credentialing organization for private schools, governing councils for the schools of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, and has served in administrative and guidance positions at several Catholic schools in five states and the District of Columbia. In our community from 1992 to the present, she has received no less than seven honors or awards for community service, including the Jefferson Award for Outstanding Public Service, an award given only to those who go well above and beyond ordinary public service.

Mr. Speaker, Notre Dame High School will soon be without the sight of Ms. Gleason's Navy Blue VW Bug in the parking lot, but what she stood for—Christian values, social justice, women's leadership—will live on in all the young women who were educated at NDHS during her tenure. There are some who warm a seat and call themselves a leader, but there are others who lead by never being in their seat. Rita Gleason is the leader who never sits and the listener who never hesitates to open her heart. Notre Dame High School will long remember Rita Gleason, Principal for 22 years and a leader for all time.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGRESS-  
MAN JO BONNER OF THE FIRST  
DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

### HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my delegation colleagues—Congressman ROBERT ADERHOLT, Congressman MO BROOKS, Congresswoman MARTHA ROBY, Congressman MIKE ROGERS, and Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL—it is with great respect and admiration that we recognize the service of Congressman JO BONNER to the First District of Alabama, his state, and his country. A determined and effective advocate for the people of Alabama, JO BONNER has distinguished himself through his accomplishments in office, his integrity, and his deep humility. The members of the Alabama delegation have always worked together when the best interests of our state are involved and JO BONNER has been integral to our cohesiveness. We have been honored to serve with him as a colleague and count him as a friend.

JO's calling to serve began early. The ethic was instilled by a close-knit family that valued the principles of hard work, honesty, and fair play. The many public officials and community leaders in his extended family included his father, Judge Josiah Robins Bonner of Wilcox County, and his mother Imogene, who was an Army nurse during World War II.

The decision JO made to attend the University of Alabama, where he earned a journalism degree, began a love affair with a great institution that has only strengthened over the years. An internship with Congressman Jack Edwards gave JO his first intimate exposure to the U.S. House of Representatives. In a few years, JO would return with Congressman Edwards' successor, Sonny Callahan, ascending to the position of Chief of Staff.

Perhaps because he served for 18 years as a staff member himself, JO BONNER has always been known for hiring excellent people and treating his staff with professionalism and respect. By doing so, he has developed a loyal and experienced team—led most recently by Chief of Staff Al Spencer—widely acknowledged as one of the hardest-working and most effective on Capitol Hill.

Upon his election to the House in 2002, JO faced enormous expectations in continuing the legacy established by his two outstanding predecessors and mentors. But JO had listened and observed closely over the years and quickly established himself as a leader in our state's delegation and the House, achieving influence through his knowledge, attention to detail, diligence, and ability to form personal relationships.

A constant passion of JO BONNER has been to promote economic opportunity and thereby improve the quality of life for citizens in the First District and the State of Alabama. He played a key role in such seminal economic development victories as the ThyssenKrupp steel complex, the Austal contract for construction of new ships for the U.S. Navy, and the decision by Airbus to build its new plant in Mobile. These transformational projects will provide a solid foundation for the South Alabama economy and indeed the economy of our entire state for decades to come.

JO is keenly aware of the importance of the Gulf to the economy and identity of the Mobile area. He has been an ardent supporter of the Port of Alabama. After the devastation caused by Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, JO mobilized the full resources of his office to bring needed relief to storm victims and accelerate economic recovery. Our delegation turned to him for guidance after the disastrous BP-Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. JO's skillful leadership in navigating the RESTORE Act into public law was a testament to his successful ability to move complex legislation in a thoughtful and inclusive manner. The RESTORE ACT is a signature accomplishment that will have long-lasting benefits for the Gulf Coast economy and help assure the environmental protection of the Gulf waters.

JO has taken special pride in providing the best level of service to his constituents. His high school workshops have touched thousands of students in South Alabama. A stalwart supporter of veterans, JO helped establish the Alabama State Veterans Cemetery in Spanish Fort to honor the service of our men and women in uniform. He has placed an emphasis on open communications with his constituents and the news media.

For the many of us who deeply care about this institution, JO has stood out as a Member dedicated to making the House of Representatives work as the American people rightfully expect. A principled conservative, he commitment has been to a fair legislative process, to bridging political divides, and to civility. JO was appointed to the important Appropriations Committee and entrusted to serve in the position of Chairman of the Ethics Committee during the 112th Congress. We have all gained enormously from his sound judgment and wise advice.

JO will be the first to admit that none of his achievements would have been possible without the support of his lovely wife Janee and his children, Robin and Lee. We thank them for sharing JO with us and our nation.

Now, JO will be entering a new phase in public life as the Vice Chancellor for Economic Development and Government Relations for the University of Alabama System. His presence and counsel will further strengthen an educational institution in which Alabamians rightly take tremendous pride and which is an asset of incalculable value to our beloved state.

We will greatly miss JO BONNER as a colleague and friend, but know that he will continue to work with all of his considerable talents and energy to improve the lives of the people of Alabama.

Our tribute today is just a small way of showing how much we appreciate JO and how much he has meant to us and to the institution to which he has devoted so much of his life, the United States House of Representatives. On his last day of service representing Alabama's First Congressional District, we want JO to know that he and his family have our most heartfelt best wishes and will continue to be in our prayers as they enter an exciting new chapter in their lives.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

July 31—Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 426 on HR 1911—Motion to Concur with the Senate Amendment, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 427 on passage of HR 850, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

August 1—Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 428 on the Waxman amendment to HR 1582—, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 429 on the Connolly amendment to HR 1582, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 430 on the Murphy amendment to HR 1582—, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 431 on the Capps motion to recommit HR 1582, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 432 on passage of HR 1582, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 433 ordering the previous question on H. Res. 322, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 434 on adoption of H. Res. 322, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 435 on HR 1897, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 436 on passage of HR 2879, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

August 2—Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 437 on the Scalise amendment to HR 367—, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 438 on the Smith amendment to HR 367—, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 439 on the Latham amendment to HR 367—, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 440 on the Nadler amendment to HR 367—, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 441 on the Johnson amendment to HR 367—, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no". Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 442 on the Jackson Lee amendment