

she returned to the community that she loved. From 1990 until 2007, Vanderbilt has benefited from her steady service, and the University knows it. In many ways, Betty defined both her role at the school and the school's role in the community; she retires as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations and leaves as her legacy an institution that fully and conscientiously participates in its community. And Vanderbilt has immortalized her by dedicating the Betty C. Nixon Center for Community Connections in her honor.

Betty's ceaseless service to Nashville government and nonprofit organizations belies the limited number of hours in a day. Oasis Center, Nashville Electric Service, Tennessee State University Business Incubation Center, Bill Wilkerson Hearing and Speech Center, Davidson County Election Commission, Nashville Women's Breakfast Club, United Way, Project PENCIL, West End United Methodist Church, Citizen's Bank, Youth Encouragement Services, Tennessee Women's Political Caucus, YMCA Black Achievers, Rochelle Center, League for the Hard of Hearing, Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle Tennessee, WIN—these groups and many others have all benefited from Betty's skill, charm, and grace. She has been honored as a YWCA Woman of Achievement and has received the prestigious Athena Award.

Madam Speaker, Nashville is a stronger, more vibrant community because of Betty Nixon's commitment to improving the lives of those around her. Today I rise to pay tribute to her legacy, express our Nation's gratitude for her service, and wish her many more years of contented engagement with a city that has been forever changed by her efforts.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE: CELEBRATING JOE HARDY ON HIS 84TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight an American success story, an inspirational Pennsylvanian and a great American, Joe Hardy, III. Joe Hardy is the embodiment of the idea that, as Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get and we make a life by what we give." This month marks Joe Hardy's 84th birthday and it is only right that his achievements in business and his contributions to society be celebrated in this, the people's House.

Joe Hardy is perhaps best known as the founder of 84 Lumber, the largest privately owned building materials supplier to professional contractors in America. But he is much more than this. He is a self-made man, a civic leader and a great philanthropist. He is the embodiment of the American Dream and his story continues to encourage those around him.

With 84 Lumber, Joe Hardy reached a level in business that thousands of smaller entrepreneurs aspire to reach for themselves. And like many Americans just starting out in the world of business, Joe Hardy did not inherit his success; he built it from the ground up. His is a true American success story, a story that is alive and well today.

When Joe Hardy graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in engineering he joined his family's jewelry company. He demonstrated his business acumen early, and quickly became the company's best salesman. But Joe Hardy wanted to make his own name in the business world, so in 1952, with his own savings and the help of some friends, he opened a cash-and-carry lumber yard for contractors in the town of Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania. In 1956 he changed his company's name from Green Hills Lumber to 84 Lumber and the rest, as they say, is history.

84 Lumber grew quickly, reaching \$84 million in sales in 1971 and \$1 billion in sales in 1996. As his company and his fortune grew, Joe Hardy began to give back to the communities that had given him the chance to succeed. In 1987, he bought the Nemaocolin Resort in a bankruptcy sale and turned it into a major economic draw and tourist destination for Western Pennsylvania.

He brought a PGA tournament to the world class Nemaocolin Resort that not only drew attention to the area, but raised money for worthy causes. The list of philanthropic achievements in this area is long, but a few examples stand out.

Over the past 15 years, Joe Hardy's 84 Lumber Golf Tournaments have raised over \$1 million for the Westmoreland-Fayette Boy Scout Council. He organized a PGA Tour event from 2003 to 2006 that raised more than \$6 million for local charities and \$1.3 million for Hurricane Katrina relief. Additionally, through his long collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, Joe Hardy enabled the funding and construction of 50 homes along the hurricane ravaged Gulf Coast.

But his philanthropy does not end there. In 1990, Joe Hardy gave a grant to Washington and Jefferson College to start an Entrepreneurial Spirit Studies Program as well as a scholarship fund its participation. This celebrated program continues to train tomorrow's business leaders today.

In addition to philanthropy, Joe Hardy is also civically engaged. He continues to serve as a County Commissioner for Fayette County Pennsylvania and personally invested his own money into the revitalization of Uniontown, the hometown of General George C. Marshall.

The list of Joe Hardy's accomplishments is simply too long to cover here. However, to the people of Fayette County, the contributions he has made to their lives are evident everyday. Whether you walk down the streets of a revitalized Uniontown, enjoy a jump in business due to the Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort, or build your new house with 84 Lumber products, Joe Hardy's impact is there.

I want to wish Joe Hardy a happy 84th birthday and thank him for all he has done throughout his life. With his achievements and outlook on life, I am sure we will see many more successes in the years ahead.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BILL SMITH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the banking ca-

reer of Bill Smith, who, as he puts it, started out as an errand runner and left as chairman of the board.

Bill began working for the Bank of Commerce in Woodbury, Tennessee, in 1950. At the time, there were five other employees working at the bank on the west side of the Cannon County Square. He began as a runner and went on to fill many other positions at the bank, including using a pen and ledger to keep the balance of the entire bank.

In 1954, the bank moved to its current location on the north side of the square, and Bill continued moving up. In 1964, an addition was added to the bank, and Bill earned the title of vice president.

In 1967, the Bank of Commerce was sold to Third National Bank, and Bill became president. Another addition to the Woodbury branch was added in 1982. Under Bill's leadership, the Bank of Commerce sponsored the Cannon County Good Ole Days for 25 years and started the annual Red Apple Days in Auburtnown. Bank branches were built and obtained in the Edgefield community and in Auburtnown.

When the bank sold in the early 1980s, it had grown to about 50 full-time and 20 part-time employees. The bank sold again in 1991 to Regions, and Bill's son, Steve, who had begun working for the bank while attending Middle Tennessee State University, became president. Bill became chairman of the board until he retired from the banking industry on August 31, 2005.

In his so-called retirement, Bill has been helping his son, Mike, with their family business, Smith Funeral Home, and managing his family farm. He is an active member of the Church of Christ.

Christine Dillon, who has worked with Bill since 1951, both at the bank and the funeral home, says Bill is described by friends as kind, friendly, a good Christian and a great marketing person. He is much loved by his friends and former banking colleagues. I congratulate Bill on his retirement, and I wish him many years of happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HAITIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Haitian Protection Act of 2007.

This important piece of legislation would designate Haitian nationals as eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

The creation of TPS was intended to serve as the statutory embodiment of safe haven for those who are fleeing—or reluctant to return to—a potentially dangerous situation in their country of origin.

According to section 244A of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990, TPS may be granted when: there is ongoing armed conflict posing a serious threat to personal safety; it is requested by a foreign state that temporarily cannot handle the return of nationals due to environmental disaster; or extraordinary and temporary conditions in a foreign state exist which prevent aliens from returning.