

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE ANN BEDSOLE OF THE ANN SMITH BEDSOLE LIBRARY AT THE ALABAMA SCHOOL OF MATH AND SCIENCE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is a personal pleasure and distinct privilege to rise today to recognize one of my state's most outstanding citizens, former Alabama State Senator Ann Bedsole, for being honored by the Alabama School of Math and Science (ASMS) with the recent dedication of the new Ann Smith Bedsole Library.

For over three decades, Ann has been one of South Alabama's most trusted and respected leaders. In 1978, she became the first Republican woman to be elected to the Alabama House of Representatives. At the next state election, she became the first woman ever elected to the Alabama State Senate and, in 1994, she was a candidate for governor. To say she has been a political pioneer, as well as personal inspiration to many of us, would be a considerable understatement.

During her career in the Alabama Legislature, Senator Bedsole was instrumental in the creation of the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile. Working closely with fellow legislators and members of various agencies in state government, she was able to secure support for the institution and has provided a great deal of assistance to the school since it opened in 1991.

In recent years, Senator Bedsole has served as both vice president and president of the ASMS Foundation Board of Directors.

A successful businesswoman, Ann is the owner and operator of Bedsole Farms and president and chairman of the Board of White Smith Land Co. She is also involved in many charitable organizations including serving on the boards of the Sybil Smith Charitable Trust and the J. L. Bedsole Foundation. She has also served on the board of trustees of Spring Hill College and Huntingdon College.

Ann Bedsole's efforts in the fields of volunteerism and fundraising have also led to significant recognition in previous years, and she has been honored as First Lady of Mobile in 1972, Mobilian of the Year in 1993, and Philanthropist of the Year in 1998. She also served as president of Mobile's Tricentennial celebration.

Ann has received the Meritorious Public Service Award from both the Montgomery Advertiser and the Alabama Journal. She also received Honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Mobile College and Huntingdon College.

In 2002, Senator Bedsole was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor. Created in 1965, the Alabama Academy of Honor was established to recognize living Alabamians for

their accomplishments and service that greatly benefit or reflect credit on the state of Alabama. Ten members may be elected annually by the Academy of Honor with no greater than 100 living members at a time.

Madam Speaker, Ann Bedsole has spent practically her entire adult life giving to others, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking her for her commitment to so many wonderful missions.

I know her family and friends join with me in praising her accomplishments. On behalf of all who have benefited from her good heart and generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for her many efforts over the past three decades in making Mobile and the state of Alabama a better place to live and work.

THE 86TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER GOVERNOR WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most dynamic and important figures in Maryland's history as he prepares to celebrate yet another milestone in a life full of them.

Tomorrow (November 2), William Donald Schaefer, the former Governor and Comptroller of the State of Maryland, former Mayor of Baltimore, and distinguished public servant will celebrate his 86th birthday. I urge all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting Governor Schaefer on this momentous occasion.

Throughout his 86 years—nearly 50 of which were spent in public office—William Donald Schaefer has been driven by a burning desire to improve the lives of his fellow citizens. I am confident that this was instilled in him at a young age by his parents, William and Tullu.

Following his service in the U.S. Army during World War II, Schaefer returned to his beloved Baltimore and embarked on what was to become one of the most successful political careers Maryland has ever witnessed.

In 1955, Governor Schaefer first entered public office when he was elected to the Baltimore City Council from the city's 5th District. He served on the council for 16 years, including four years as its president. During his term as President of the City Council, Schaefer was a steady force during turbulent times, helping direct the National Guard in quelling the riots following the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1971, Schaefer was elected as Mayor of the City of Baltimore, succeeding Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro III, brother of the current Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI. Schaefer was subsequently re-elected three times, never receiving less than 85 percent of the vote.

Schaefer's dedication to his hometown was unmatched then, as it is now. He served as something of a "Motivator in Chief," reigniting a sense of pride in the city's residents. His philosophy was simple—"Do It Now"—cut through the red tape and provide citizens with the basic services they expect: clean neighborhoods, filled potholes, and plowed streets.

His accomplishments as mayor are many and have had a long and lasting impact on the city. He led the redevelopment of Baltimore's Inner Harbor, including the building of the National Aquarium, helping to transform the Harbor into a city center and establishing Baltimore as a significant tourist destination. He oversaw the construction of the Baltimore City Convention Center and the establishment of a subway system in the city. It is not hard to understand why he was repeatedly named the "Best Mayor in America."

In 1986, Schaefer demonstrated a commitment to the entire state when he decided to run to become the 58th Governor of Maryland. He was elected by a landslide and was re-elected by a wide margin four years later.

As governor, he worked to improve Maryland's public education system, established the Maryland Department of the Environment, made headway in the efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay, improve transportation infrastructure, including the establishment of the MTA's Light Rail Line. He also led the push to establish Oriole Park at Camden Yards and laid the groundwork for what became M&T Bank Stadium, home of the Baltimore Ravens.

When forced by term-limits to retire as governor, newspapers and citizens alike heralded the end of the so-called Schaefer era. But, much to our good fortune, it was not to be. The desire to serve was too strong.

Energetic and as enthusiastic as ever about helping the people of his state, William Donald Schaefer came out of a well deserved retirement in 1998, to be elected as the 32nd Comptroller of the State of Maryland, a position to which he was overwhelmingly reelected in 2002.

Governor Schaefer has now embarked on his second retirement, but we all know that such a man can never truly retire. He cares too much for his fellow Marylanders and continues to serve as an inspiration to all of us for his continued commitment to service.

I think the Baltimore Sun captured it best at the conclusion of his second term as governor. The final paragraph of the paper's editorial reads:

"Mr. Schaefer is no shrinking violet. His larger-than-life personality can be alternately endearing and engaging. But he cares deeply about people. That's the bottom line for him. Helping people. You couldn't ask for more from a public servant."

No you couldn't.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO UNDER SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS, KAREN
HUGHES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the important work of Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Karen Hughes, in light of the announcement that she is resigning. Under Secretary Hughes has led efforts to improve the image of the United States overseas by changing the way the United States engages with the Muslim world.

Under Secretary Hughes has worked tirelessly to build a strong organization within the State Department that future administrations can rely upon. She has dramatically increased the number of Arabic language interviews, created three rapid response centers overseas to respond to news events, and nearly doubled the public diplomacy budget to combat negative perceptions of the United States abroad.

During her time as head of our government's public diplomacy efforts, Under Secretary Hughes has shown a deep commitment to promoting freedom and to encouraging confidence in speaking out about the values we hold dear. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

I am inserting for the RECORD Under Secretary Hughes's remarks today at the announcement of her resignation.

UNDER SECRETARY KAREN P. HUGHES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, TREATY ROOM

First, I want to thank President Bush and Secretary Rice for giving me the great privilege of representing our country abroad and reaching out to the people of the world in a spirit of respect and friendship.

It's been a special honor to work for Secretary Rice, who is both a great friend and a great role model. I also want to thank my outstanding team in public diplomacy—all that we have been able to accomplish has been due to their work—and all the people of the State Department—foreign service, civil service, foreign service nationals, and presidential appointees. I've learned so much from them and I've been honored to serve with them in representing America across the world.

Later this year, in mid-December, I will be returning home to Texas. I feel that I have done what Secretary Rice and President Bush asked me to do by transforming public diplomacy and making it a national security priority, central to everything we do in government—while also engaging the private sector more extensively than ever before.

I have spent almost nine of the last 12 years of my career in government service and after commuting between Washington and Austin not nearly as often as I would like for the last two-and-a-half years, I'm looking forward to returning to private life and living in the same city with my husband.

When I look back at the last couple of years, I'm very proud of what our public diplomacy team has accomplished.

We've aggressively expanded our programs, fought for and won increased funding and put in place many innovations and institutional reforms.

They include aggressive and significantly expanded media outreach. We've created new regional media hubs, which put language

qualified foreign service officers on television in key regional media markets of Dubai, Brussels and London. A new rapid response unit monitors international television and blogs and issues a daily report to inform policy makers about what is driving international news, then provides the U.S. government's position on those issues. We've transformed the Bureau of International Information programs into a high tech hub with web sites in English and six languages, created a digital outreach team that counters misinformation and myths on blogs in Arabic (soon to add Farsi and Urdu)—and stood up a new video production unit. Our ambassadors are now empowered and expected to engage with the media, and every foreign service officer is evaluated on public diplomacy activities.

We've put in place extensive new outreach to young people, teaching English to thousands of high school students in more than 40 Muslim majority countries. Last summer, we started a new program to reach an even younger audience—8 to 14-year-olds, with a summer program teaching English, computer, arts and sports activates and leadership training. English teaching gives young people a skill they desire, a marketable skill, while opening a window to a wider world of knowledge.

I'll never forget meeting a young man in one of our English programs in Morocco. I asked him what difference it had made in his life, and he said: "I have a job and none of my friends do." He was from the same neighborhood that produced the Casablanca suicide bombers. In addition to a job, he now has a hope, a reason to live rather than kill himself and others in a suicide bombing.

We've engaged Muslim populations through a new program called citizen dialogue, which sends Muslim Americans overseas to dialogue with Muslim communities—and we've brought more than 600 religious clerics scholars and community leaders from Muslim countries to America to get to know us better.

We've engaged the private sector more extensively than ever before—leveraging more than \$800 million in partnerships ranging from disaster relief to education and health programs to working to make our airports and embassies more welcoming.

We've significantly expanded outreach to women, with a new breast cancer initiative in the Middle East and Latin America and a number of business women's mentoring initiatives.

A new partnership with U.S. higher education helped attract a record number of international students to study in America and reversed the trend of decline that began in the years after September 11th. We issued an all time high of 591,000 student visas in 2006 and traveled with university presidents across the world to encourage international students to come to America.

Our flagship programs like Fulbright at record highs, we've restarted exchanges with Iran for the first time since 1979 and participation in our education and exchange programs—people-to-people diplomacy—has grown from 27,000 in 2004 to nearly 40,000 today.

I've worked to set a more strategic direction for USG broadcasting and recruit new leadership for the Broadcasting Board of Governors and its entities.

We launched a new Global Cultural initiative, expanded sports programming, sent musical groups like the fusion funk group Ozomatli abroad with a message of respect for diversity. We started a new public diplomacy envoy program, enlisting well known Americans including Olympic skater Michelle Kwan and baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. to represent America overseas.

We have implemented a majority of the recommendations from more than 30 studies of U.S. public diplomacy, including the comprehensive Djerejian report, and developed the first inter-agency strategic communications plan for the U.S. government.

I'm very proud of what we've started, and I will continue to be a champion of public diplomacy. I will advocate for more funding and more programs, because I believe it's vitally important for the future of our increasingly interconnected world—and especially for the future of our children. I want to encourage my fellow Americans to engage with the world, to study abroad, to travel—one of my own goals in the years ahead is to improve my Spanish.

Secretary Rice, thank you for this opportunity; it's been an honor and privilege to work for you and with you, and I thank my great public diplomacy team.

CONGRATULATING STANDARD
EQUIPMENT CO. INC. OF MOBILE
ON ITS RECOGNITION AS AN
ALABAMA CENTENNIAL RE-
TAILER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Standard Equipment Co. Inc., located in Mobile, Alabama, for being recognized by the Alabama Retail Association as an Alabama Centennial Retailer.

The Alabama Retail Association, in conjunction with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, sponsors the Retailer of the Year program. Awarded in three categories based on annual sales volume, the awards are presented at the association's annual Retailing Day luncheon.

The designation of Alabama Centennial Retailer by the Alabama Retail Association recognizes century-old retail businesses for their contributions to Alabama's past, present, and future. I am proud to recognize that two of the honorees are located in Alabama's First Congressional District.

One of this year's honorees, Standard Equipment Co. Inc., was founded in 1906 by Richard A. Christian. A distributor of industrial, construction and marine supplies, Standard was originally located at Commerce and St. Anthony streets, but for almost 50 years, the company has operated at Beauregard and Water streets near the state docks. A major supplier of maintenance, repair, and operating products, the company is now owned by E. Burnley Davis Sr. and Robert D. Wilkins.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Standard Equipment Co. Inc. for being recognized as an Alabama Centennial Retailer by the Alabama Retail Association. I know Burnley Davis, the company president, along with the company employees, their friends, families, and members of the community also join with me in praising Standard Equipment Co. Inc. for their many accomplishments and for extending thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community and the First Congressional District.