

known authority on paper-making technology, Barbara H. Wortley.

Mrs. Wortley of Fort Lauderdale, FL, passed away on November 25 in Washington, DC surrounded by her loving family. The wife of former Congressman George C. Wortley, she conducted innovative research in paper-making techniques for more than 40 years.

Barbara was the first woman graduate of the SUNY College of Forestry with a pulp and paper specialty. She was an honors forestry graduate and also received a cum laude degree in chemistry from Syracuse University in 1948.

She was senior technical manager for Allied Chemical in Solway, NY, later Allied Signal and then General Chemical. Her work took her to countries around the world to solve technical problems in paper mills.

Numerous organizations awarded Barbara for her achievements. The Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, TAPPI, awarded her for many years of contributions to the organization. Barbara wrote more than 30 technical papers, contributed regularly to professional journals, organized seminars and was a member of TAPPI for more than 40 years.

Barbara served on several Central New York foundations and associations. She was a past president of the Zonta Club of Syracuse, NY, an international professional women's organization; a former member of the CNY Epilepsy Foundation; and a former member of the New York State Women's Advisory Council. For her many contributions, she was a Syracuse Post-Standard Woman of Achievement for Science.

She is survived by her loving husband, George C. Wortley, and their children, son George, daughters Ann and Elizabeth, daughter-in-law Susan, sons-in-law Frank and John, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

For her contributions to paper-making technology and to the greater Central New York community, I honor my dear friend Barbara H. Wortley for her lifetime of accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH COLLINS,  
CHIEF ECONOMIST, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Dr. Keith Collins who has served with distinction as the Chief Economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for almost 14 years. At the end of this year Keith will retire, and he will be missed, not only by his colleagues at USDA but by all of us who came to respect and rely on his nonpartisan, thoughtful and detailed analysis of economic issues in agriculture.

Keith began his career as an economist with USDA in 1977, and his tenure there has spanned four presidencies of both political parties. He has served under nine Secretaries of Agriculture.

In 1994, Keith was named Chief Economist at USDA, and in that capacity he has been responsible for economic forecasts and projec-

tions and has advised the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic implications of alternative programs, regulations and legislative proposals. His advice has not been limited to the Secretary either; he has become a valued advisor to Members of Congress and others involved in agriculture policy.

On highly charged political issues, Keith is known for his honesty, competency and influence. Even when facing tough questions from Members of Congress, nothing seems to rattle Keith's calm, rational demeanor.

Keith has also earned the respect of his peers in the field of agricultural economics. Keith is a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, which is the highest honor the agricultural economics profession can bestow.

One economist who worked with Keith over the years measured the potential success for newly appointed Secretaries of Agriculture using what he called the "Keith Collins intelligence test." If the new Secretaries re-appointed Keith as Chief Economist, they passed.

Keith's colleagues at USDA have also recognized his outstanding contributions. He received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 1990 and 1996 and the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executive in 1992, the highest award a Federal executive can receive.

Madam Speaker, Keith's retirement is a real loss for American agriculture. Through his service at USDA, he has influenced agriculture policy in many positive and lasting ways. His work truly has touched the lives of many Americans, especially our Nation's farmers and ranchers.

On behalf of the House Agriculture Committee, I extend to Keith our deepest appreciation for his service to American agriculture and wish him great happiness in retirement.

RECOGNITION OF HANDLEY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize today the players and coaches of the Handley High School varsity football team from Randolph County in Alabama's Third Congressional District.

These talented young athletes recently won the 4A Regional Championship, and in doing so, became a great source of pride by their community. These young people worked tirelessly to earn this great honor, and brought together young and old fans across Randolph County to cheer the Handley Tigers on.

I am proud to acknowledge and congratulate the Handley High School varsity football team of 2007 in the House today, and extend my most heartfelt congratulations to these talented young people for their significant accomplishment.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Energy Independence and Security Act. With this legislation, the new Democratic Congress is leading America in a new direction on energy policy.

This is the most significant energy bill in a generation. The House is taking a major step toward ending our dependence on foreign oil by increasing efficiency standards for cars and trucks for the first time in over 30 years. This will reduce America's need for oil by 1.1 million gallons per day, cut emissions almost 27 million tons per year, and save Minnesota families up to \$1,000 every year.

The Energy Independence and Security Act is Congress's most serious effort to combat global climate change to date. The bill includes the first ever national Renewable Energy Standard requiring utilities to generate at least 15 percent of the electricity we use from renewable sources, including wind, solar, biomass and geothermal sources. In addition, it also implements landmark energy efficiency standards for appliances, lighting, and buildings, which will significantly reduce our emissions, while saving American families and businesses billions of dollars in unnecessary energy costs.

By setting new priorities, the House can do all this while also cutting costs for consumers and creating millions of new high-paying, high-skill "green" jobs. This legislation repeals \$21 billion in taxpayer subsidies for highly profitable oil and gas companies and redirects these needed resources into developing America's new clean energy economy. This money will be invested in research and development so that American auto makers will produce the next generation of hybrid and electric cars. It will allow 3 million Americans to receive job training for new green jobs, and provide assistance for small businesses to reap the benefits of this growing industry. It will ensure that power plants become cleaner through tax credits for investments in clean power and the long overdue implementation of carbon capture and sequestration technologies. Moreover, Minnesota farmers will benefit from its historic commitment to homegrown biofuels—replacing Middle East crude with Midwest crops.

It is time to make America more secure, more prosperous and more environmentally sustainable. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a new direction in energy policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted on December 11, 2007, due to inclement weather grounding flights from Wisconsin. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 1142 through 1144.