

history as well as its 50 years of international fellowship. The college and its graduates have not only made a positive impact within the greater Kalamazoo community and the State of Michigan, but throughout the entire Nation and the world at large.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM L. DICKINSON

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Alabama Republican Congressman Bill Dickinson who passed away last night at the age of 82 after an extended illness. As many of my colleagues will remember, Bill Dickinson represented Alabama's Second Congressional District for 28 years. Barbara and I send our heartfelt condolences to Bill's wife, Barbara, their children, Christopher, Michael, Tara and Bill, Jr. and the entire Dickinson family at this time of personal loss.

A native of Opelika, Alabama, and a former city, county and state judge before coming to Congress, Bill Dickinson was a Republican in the Deep South when being a Republican was not popular. Bill Dickinson came to Washington in 1964 as part of the Goldwater sweep of the Deep South and gained a reputation as a formidable legislator and a strong conservative voice for southeast Alabama. He served during a time of momentous change in this House, from civil rights movements and political upheavals of the 1960s, through Vietnam, Watergate, and the Reagan Revolution.

A Navy veteran, Bill Dickinson was a stalwart in national defense and was Ronald Reagan's point man on the House Armed Services Committee where he was ranking member for over a decade. As the committee's leading Republican he gave his support to President Reagan's defense build-up of the 1980s which made America more secure. Upon his retirement after 14 terms on the Hill, Congressman Dickinson listed his greatest accomplishments. After nearly three decades in office you can be sure the list is long, but here are some of the things he was proudest of. He saw aviation become a permanent full-fledged branch of the Army and Fort Rucker become the permanent home of Army Aviation. Furthermore, he secured Federal funding to help construct the U.S. Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker which bears his name. He was credited with getting Pentagon approval for the use of the Apache attack helicopter in the first gulf war. The Apache fired the first shot in the war. He oversaw the transformation of Gunter Air Force Station in Montgomery to an Air Force base before merging it with Maxwell to strengthen it. He also saw Maxwell restored to a major 3 star command and the establishment of the Air Force School of Law and the Senior NCO Academy for the entire Air Force at Maxwell-Gunter.

Bill Dickinson also took pride in securing the initial funding for the ongoing Outer Loop Interstate Connector south of Montgomery linking I-65 to I-85. This project is still underway. With the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the Warsaw Pact and the entire Soviet Union, he witnessed the validation of the concept of

"Peace Through Strength" for which he always worked. Bill Dickinson's legacy is still felt on many fronts, but today he is often credited with having laid the political foundation that kept the Second Congressional District in Republican hands for so long. I add my voice to those who mourn his passing and remember the dedication of this exemplary congressman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 147, 148 and 149, I missed votes because my flight was delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on 147; "yea" on 148; and "yea" on 149.

HONORING JOSHUA DANIEL PIATT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Daniel Piatt of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Joshua is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1220, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Daniel Piatt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING COACHES DON AND BLAZE THOMPSON OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Coaches Don and Blaze Thompson, father and son, who are true living legends in the city of Pahokee, Florida and throughout Palm Beach County.

Don Thompson has been a part of the Pahokee Middle/Senior High School Blue Devils football team since 1984. As head coach, he led the team to its first state championship in 1989. In all the years since, he has been a mentor, friend and very important role model for the young men of Pahokee. Still an assistant coach of the team, Don Thompson is recognized and respected around the state of Florida as an expert at the sport of football. He is also a loving husband, father and grand-

father. As Don Thompson's son, Blaze Thompson has inherited his Dad's talent and skill for winning. In his first year as head coach of the Blue Devils, the team played the toughest opponents in its division and went undefeated, winning its 5th state championship. Blaze has already earned the love and respect of his players, fellow coaches, Pahokee's citizens and everyone who enjoys high school football.

Many of the boys Don and Blaze have coached have gone on to successful careers in professional football. As the first father and son to win Florida state championships with the same football team, it is fitting that Don was inducted into the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame and Blaze named Coach of the Year on the same night. I have no doubt that Blaze will one day follow his Dad into the Hall. I am pleased that both of these fine gentlemen and the team they coach call the 23rd District of Florida their home. I am very proud of them. On behalf of the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, I applaud coaches Thompson and Thompson for their service and commitment to the people of my district and throughout South Florida. We are all very proud of them.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY TAVERNA ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pleasure today to honor a leader in my district who has done so much to help the terminally ill and their families face end-of-life issues. Mary Taverna is retiring after more than 30 years with the organization now known as Hospice By the Bay. She leaves behind an enduring legacy of hope and compassion to the people of Marin County, the San Francisco Bay area, and across the United States.

When she first began working as a nurse, Mary was concerned about the terminally ill and the lack of adequate care, so it was a natural step in 1976 for her to join what was then Hospice of Marin, which had been founded the previous year. At that time Hospice of Marin was only the second hospice in the United States, the first on the West Coast, and most Americans were unaware of what the hospice mission was. In fact, even the health care industry resisted it.

Mary was instrumental in changing all that, teaching that hospice was a specially designed program to address the comprehensive needs of the whole family system at the end of life, and that it was part of—not instead of—the health care support team. Two years after coming to Hospice of Mann, Mary became president of the organization. Under her leadership, Hospice nurtured community relationships as well as they did the families they served, including building a partnership with management of both county hospitals. Hospice of Marin is such a model that health care providers come here for training from all parts of the United States.

"I feel a great sense of pride in our organization's leadership and participation in hospice