

only to the Nation's top college and university leaders. He spent the next academic year at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Upon his return in 2005, he was named to the newly created position of Vice President for Governmental Affairs and University Outreach, the position he will leave on May 28, 2008. Making a strong impact from the start, Dr. Durnil oversaw the creation, direction and implementation of strategic activities focused on governmental, community, public and external relations for the university.

Through Dr. Durnil's efforts, Roosevelt University gained national and international recognition as a major sponsor for the 2006 Gay Games, which were hosted by the City of Chicago. From serving as a registration site for the 140,000 participants to hosting a mayoral press conference on campus to providing housing for athletes, Roosevelt University was a major part of this event, thanks to Dr. Durnil. His hard work and penchant for developing productive and solid relationships in Springfield and Washington, DC, has resulted in a strengthened presence and recognition for the university with elected officials.

With deep appreciation and admiration for his efforts, I thank Dr. Durnil for his service to Roosevelt University and the city of Chicago and wish him well in his new endeavors.

CONGRATULATING JULIAN SMITH
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Julian Smith, on the occasion of his retirement from Alabama Power Company.

With a career spanning over 34 years, Julian rose through the ranks of the Alabama Power Company. Julian joined Alabama Power in 1974 in the construction department at Greene County Steam Plant. In 1982, he transitioned to the governmental affairs department, and in 1991, he was promoted to vice president of governmental affairs. Julian assumed his current position, vice president of corporate relations, in 2000.

Julian has been active in Alabama politics his entire adult life. He served as corporate liaison to former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman. In 2001, he was appointed to the Delta Regional Authority as well as the Alabama Commission on Physical Fitness. Julian also served as corporate liaison for the creation of the Alabama Black Belt Community Foundation, leading Alabama Power to partner with Auburn University in their effort to establish a Regional Foundation for the Black Belt.

Julian serves on the board of trustees for Marion Military Institute. He is an alumnus of Leadership Birmingham. He served on the 1996 Birmingham Soccer Organizing Committee as well as numerous committees for the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. In 1981, the Alabama Jaycees named Julian among the "Four Outstanding Young Men of Alabama."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. I know his family and his many friends and colleagues join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Alabama.

Julian will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with family and loved ones. On behalf of a grateful State, I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING LEE HUDSON OF NAPA
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Lee Hudson, who is being honored by the Napa Valley Grapegrowers as their Grower of the Year on Friday, May 16, 2008. Mr. Hudson is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to the wine grape industry and the larger community of the Napa Valley.

Hudson Vineyards has established itself over the last 25 years as one of the truly great vineyards of the Napa Valley. Mr. Hudson found his love for winemaking early on, receiving his B.S. in Horticulture from the University of Arizona and continuing his education in Viticulture and Enology at the University of California, Davis. Mr. Hudson's dedication and passion to his craft shows in the number of critically acclaimed wines that Hudson Vineyards has produced and continues producing today.

Throughout his career, Lee Hudson has set a lofty standard for farming in the Napa Valley. These high standards are reflected not only in the quality of his fruit and clients, but also in the loyalty of his employees. In recent years, Mr. Hudson has brought significant benefits to some of his field-based employees by offering after-hours English courses and low-cost housing options on the ranch.

Mr. Hudson is a great role model for other growers in the industry through his innovation, progressive farming techniques, and managing vineyards and surrounding land with a "systems approach". This "systems approach" makes Hudson Vineyards stand out among the rest in land stewardship and land conservation. Mr. Hudson sets a tremendous example with his strong advocacy for the preservation of agriculture in the Napa Valley, as well as his active involvement with the Napa Valley Grapegrowers.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Lee Hudson for the incredible work he has done on behalf of the Napa Valley. As a respected grape grower he has advanced the reputation of Napa Valley grapes and wine, and has been a model citizen and superb steward of the land.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, Today is National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Just outside this chamber, are thousands of law enforcement officers, here to honor the fallen.

Freedom is not something we can take for granted. Police officers understand their role in this and take it seriously. For 33 years, I wore the badge of the King County Sheriff's office, and understand the sacrifice, and the pain of losing a partner.

My good friend Mr. POE has a resolution honoring these brave men and women who sacrificed all while protecting our communities and keeping our children safe. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee passed the resolution on May 1st and yet the Majority has failed to bring it to the floor. Why? The House has honored our peace officers and passed this resolution every year since 1999. This is the first time in 5 years the resolution has failed to come to the floor during National Police Week.

Madam Speaker, on this National Peace Officers Memorial Day, I ask this body to reconsider, and pass the resolution honoring these brave men and women.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CRYSTLE
STEWART, MISS USA 2008

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on April 11, 2008, Crystle Stewart, 26, of Missouri City, Texas was awarded the coveted Miss USA crown. I am honored to recognize her on this tremendous accomplishment.

Miss Stewart graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in consumer science and merchandising and now runs her own company "Inside/Out." This remarkable company aids young women in building self-esteem and volunteers with many organizations in the community. Her ability to juggle academics, her company, and work at a modeling agency is a testament to her amazing discipline and strong desire to succeed.

In the process of obtaining her crown, Miss Stewart made history; she is only the second African-American woman to win the title of Miss Texas and the first in more than a decade. I commend Miss Stewart for being a trailblazer, scholar, and success story to young women throughout the country, and I wish her luck as she competes for the title of Miss Universe in Vietnam this June. I know she will continue to bring pride to the state of Texas and the United States of America.