

HONORING VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE ON HIS DECORATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Vice President Walter Mondale as he receives the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers from the Government of Japan. This prestigious decoration is the highest honor given to foreign civilians by the Japanese government and is being bestowed to Vice President Mondale for his contribution to enhancing friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States as U.S. Ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996.

No public servant is more deserving of this honor than my friend and fellow Minnesotan Walter Mondale. For five decades, Minnesotans have supported the man they warmly call "Fritz" as he served as Vice President of the United States under President Carter, Minnesota's U.S. Senator from 1964 to 1976, and State Attorney General. His contributions in areas including education, social justice and international human rights have forever changed Minnesota, our nation and the world.

Walter Mondale's career in public service is distinguished, however, not by the greatness of his titles, but by the goodness of his heart. He used his positions of authority to tirelessly promote cross-cultural understanding, economic justice and civil rights. While his accomplishments are many, his greatest legacy may be the model of principled and diligent public service that continues to inspire America and fill Minnesotans with quiet pride.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and all Minnesotans in congratulating Vice President Mondale on this distinct and much-deserved honor.

CONGRATULATING TRAY SMITH FOR BEING NAMED ATMORE'S "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate my friend Tray Smith of Atmore, Alabama, for being named Atmore's 2008 "Citizen of the Year." As evidenced by an outstanding list of accomplishments, he is one of the most exceptional young men I have ever known.

Tray has a love of people and an understanding of politics that is certainly beyond his years. As a freshman in high school, he was given an opportunity to write a weekly political column for The Atmore Advance. He has also been an active member of the Student Government Association, a member of the National Honor Society and helped start a recycling program at Escambia County High School. In addition, Tray is an Eagle Scout and last year helped more than 100 citizens register to vote, most of them being minorities.

Although I have known Tray for years, I have been especially proud of some of his

more recent accomplishments. As you may know, Governor Bob Riley chose Tray to be the first high school intern working in his office in Montgomery. Additionally, as part of the Junior Statesmen of American Summer program at Georgetown University, Tray also attended the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. During both opportunities, Tray excelled in every way possible.

Last year, however, I was especially proud to nominate Tray to serve as a page in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, DC. This is an honor that falls on only a select few high school juniors from throughout the nation; needless to say, he made me proud every day that I saw him on the floor of the U.S. Congress, and he has made south Alabama proud countless times as well.

Tray's list of accomplishments reads more like someone who is three or four times his age. Suffice it to say, he truly represents the very best of our young people today. Perhaps the highest compliment I can pay Tray is that as a father of a teenage daughter and an 11-year-old son, I can only hope that my children will one day have the maturity, the value system and the sense of priorities as they continue to grow-up that Tray has. There couldn't be a better role-model for them—or for our other young people—than Tray Smith.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the proud citizens of the First Congressional District and the entire state of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Tray Smith on this tremendous achievement. I know I speak for all my colleagues in the House of Representatives when I say we can't wait to see what he accomplishes in the next 18 years of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am respectfully writing to you so that it is acknowledged, had I been present to vote on H. Res. 153 "Commending the University of Southern California Trojan football team for its victory in the 2009 Rose Bowl" my vote would have been cast in support of this resolution.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Republican Conference standards, I am submitting the following information for publication concerning a project included at my request in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus.

Requesting Member: JIM JORDAN (Fourth Ohio District)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Section 205 (Flood Damage Reduction)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District

Address of Requesting Entity: 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207

Description of Request: The City of Findlay, Ohio, saw three of its worst floods in history in just a 13-month period in 2007–8. These floods devastated the city, causing significant damage to the downtown business district and displacing hundreds of residents. The Army Corps of Engineers has worked diligently since the January 2007 flood toward developing flood damage reduction plans; the feasibility study is on schedule for completion in 2010.

I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

HONORING THE GOOD DEEDS OF BEVERLY YOUNG

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valor of someone who is no stranger to good deeds and heroic actions. For those of us who have the pleasure of knowing her, Beverly Young is an activist at heart, and a go-getter by reputation.

Beverly, wife of our good friend and colleague BILL YOUNG, has never backed down from an obstacle or challenge standing in her way. She is universally recognized for getting things done.

On a US Airways flight from Tampa, FL to Washington, DC this week, an elderly woman collapsed in the airplane lavatory and lost consciousness. When no one with medical training stepped forward to help, Beverly, a former firefighter and medic, rushed to her side. Using her skills in CPR, Beverly revived the woman and remained with her to make sure she kept awake and alert.

Others on the flight that day probably thought that this was just the one-time act of a Good Samaritan. But for those of us who know her, her quick action to help someone in need was far from ordinary.

Madam Speaker, since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Beverly Young has been a fixture in the halls of our nation's military medical centers. She's not there to receive fanfare or to seek recognition; she's there to support the thousands of our nation's best and brightest who have been injured serving our great country.

Beverly is not an occasional visitor; she is there constantly for these young men and women and their families, becoming as familiar to them as anyone else they encounter during their recovery. She listens to each and every one of them, and she makes sure that they get what they need, whether it's food or supplies or fighting the Washington bureaucracy on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, our country is a better place because of people like Beverly Young. Her selfless service has earned her the respect and gratitude of all those she has helped, and all those who have witnessed her good deeds in action.