

group of workers and hopefully help them start on the road to retirement security. We urge our colleagues to join us in supporting "The Automatic IRA Act of 2010."

RECOGNIZING BECKLEY IMPACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Beckley Impact, a very special team of 16 and under softball players from my native town of Beckley, West Virginia.

This talented group of young ladies recently won the WV United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Championship and recently returned from Florida having competed in the USSSA World Series. Now the 9th ranked team in the Nation, originally formed in 1999, the team ended its recent tournament with a 3–3 record and 24–8 overall record.

While I applaud these players for their hard work, commitment and dedication to softball, I would also like to commend them for serving as a great inspiration to others both on and off of the field. Just recently, each of the team members dedicated herself to play in honor of the West Virginia coal miners who perished in the Upper Big Branch mining disaster in April. Most every family on this team had a relative, friend or neighbor who died in this tragedy.

In what has become a tradition, and a very meaningful moment, immediately following each game, the team invites their opponents to join them in a group prayer on the field, whether they won or lost.

It is my honor to salute this wonderful team, these giving individuals—Eryn Buchanon, Alexandria Garris, Alyssa Hunt, Kelci Jones, Alexa McCormack, MacKenzie Milam, Ashleigh Mills, Katie Muovich, Andrea Roles, Alissa Ward, Randi Wright, team manager Randy Hunt, and coaches Patti Ward and Willie Wright.

Their effort is aided and strongly supported by an array of local businesses who serve as sponsors. We recognize their commitment and dedication to this worthwhile community activity for our youth.

This partnership of coaches, team managers, small business, proud parents and players helps guide our youth to more productive adulthood and helps build citizens for our cities, towns, states and Nation who care and contribute of themselves in due turn. A valuable lesson for us all.

HONORING PETER SILVESTRI

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peter Silvestri on his receipt of the Illinois State Crime Commission's award of Municipal Leader of the Year for 2010. The commission chose Silvestri due to his exceptional leadership skills at the county and municipal levels as Cook County Commissioner and the Village of Elmwood Park president.

Elected in 1994 as Cook County Commissioner of the ninth district, Silvestri has played

a crucial role in nearly every area of county concern. He chairs the Zoning and Building Committee, the Building Ordinance Commission, the Litigation Subcommittee and the Environmental Control Committee. As Chairman of Environmental Control, he convened a committee of community representatives, engineers and environmentalists to discuss the Forest Preserve's proposed Storm Water Management Plan. Additionally, he sponsored an amendment to the building code to change group homes of 8 or less residents from multi-unit requirements to single family requirements, for which he will receive the President's Award from Oak Leyden Developmental Services. He serves as vice-chairman of more committees than any other commissioner. He also memorialized fallen police officers through the Cook County Peace Officer's Memorial.

As Elmwood Park President since 1989, Silvestri prides himself on an increase in building construction and expansion of village parks. During his tenure, the Village of Elmwood Park has seen a new public safety building, family aquatic center and gymnasium, and public library, as well as expanded open park space now known as Central Park. Additionally, he and the Village Board of Trustees enhanced the education requirements and training for drug and gang prevention and enforcement at the municipal police department.

While Pete Silvestri has received many awards, he sees himself as a caretaker for every person in the village and the county. I have seen firsthand Pete's extensive involvement in the community, and I applaud him on being named Municipal Leader of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Peter Silvestri on the Illinois State Crime Commission's acknowledgment of his positive effects throughout Chicago.

SPECIAL THANKS TO A VERY SPECIAL NATIVE SON: A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY BUFFETT FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE GULF COAST

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the past few months have been tremendously stressful on the people of America's Gulf Coast as our area has been overwhelmed with the worst-ever offshore oil-spill in U.S. history.

Not a day has passed since the April 20th explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig—which left 11 dead and many others injured—that coastal residents in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida haven't had to deal with the economic, ecological and environmental—fears associated with this tragedy.

For many, our way of life and everything we have known—and loved—has been threatened. Even today, as news comes that the well has been permanently capped, there continues to be legitimate concerns about what the long-term scars will be in communities like Grand Isle, Pass Christian and Perdido Key.

Specifically, Alabama's coastal towns of Bayou La Batre, Dauphin Island, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach have been especially hard-

hit, with direct impact on our fisheries community, seafood processors and commercial and recreational boaters, not to mention hundreds of small, family-owned businesses that dot the Alabama Gulf Coast like seashells that wash up with the morning tide.

While the concern no doubt continues and the challenges, in many ways, remain daunting, Gulf Coast residents were recently treated to a brief respite from the worry and stress that has been hovering over our area like a Category 5 storm out on the Gulf.

As such, it is with a heartfelt voice of pride and gratitude from Parrot Heads all over the country that I rise today to give thanks to musical legend—and native son—Jimmy Buffett for his uplifting, outstanding performance on the white, sugar sandy beaches of Gulf Shores, Alabama, where Jimmy and some of his friends entertained over 35,000 people with a free concert on July 11.

Everything that afternoon—from the clear blue skies to the emerald green waters (without oil, I might add) led to a truly festive and remarkably uplifting performance. Without a doubt, Jimmy and his friends provided some much needed tonic for an area that has been in bad need of a big boost!

Jimmy—it's kind of hard to call him "Mr. Buffett" when he often goes to work barefoot, wearing only shorts and a t-shirt—is truly a man of many talents.

As his fans around the country know, he was born in Pascagoula but grew up in Mobile, attending St. Ignatius as a little boy and graduating high school from McGill Institute. A few years later, he received a history degree from the University of Southern Mississippi but long before he left the Mobile City Limits, Jimmy was well on his way to making a name for himself as a musical talent.

Today, Jimmy Buffett is known around the world for hits such as "Margaritaville" and "Cheeseburger in Paradise." Over the years, his 30 albums have earned 8 Gold Albums and 9 Platinum or Multi Platinum Albums. And in 2003, Jimmy was awarded the Country Music Award for his hit single with Alan Jackson, "It's Five O'clock Somewhere."

But not only is Jimmy a great singer and performer, he is also a highly successful songwriter, author, businessman, and movie producer. He owns or licenses two famous restaurants named after two of his very popular songs, "Margaritaville" and "Cheeseburger in Paradise."

Outside of his busy work life, Jimmy manages to go above and beyond with his charity efforts. In 1981, Jimmy and Bob Graham, former governor and senator from Florida, founded the Save the Manatee Club, a strong-willed group that is leading the world in preservation efforts of the West Indian Manatee.

In addition, he generously funded The "Singing for Change" foundation from his 1995 concert tour which provided grants to local charities concerning children and family, the environment and also disenfranchised groups.

Madam Speaker, when the chips were down and spirits were mighty low, it was our very own "Son of a Son of a Sailor" who came home to South Alabama to help remind his friends, his family and all who watched the concert live on CMT that the Gulf Coast will weather this storm—as we have so many others—if we'll just keep the faith and stick together.