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The achievements of San Jacinto College bring pride to Houston and all of Texas. Congratulations to San Jacinto College for fifty years of excellence and to a bright future ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY,
ALABAMA MAYOR EMORY FOLMAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to an Alabamian whose patriotism and devotion to country made him a leader early in life and carried him to prominence in business and public service in later years. I am speaking of former Montgomery Mayor Emory Folmar, who passed away on November 11 at the age of 81.

Emory Folmar was born in Troy, AL, in 1930 and moved to Montgomery when he was fourteen. After graduating from Sidney Lanier High School in 1948, he attended The University of Alabama, receiving a BS in Business in just three years while serving as cadet colonel of the Army ROTC.

After college, he received an Army commission and went to Ft. Benning, GA for parachute training and instructors' schools where he was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division attached to the 2nd Infantry Division. He married Anita Pierce in February 1952 and was deployed to Korea that summer. Wounded in action, he received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. At the rank of lieutenant, he received the French Croix de Guerre as a result of his actions with the 23rd Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division and French troops.

Following his service in Korea, he was assigned to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, as an Airborne Jump Master until 1954. He then moved to Montgomery to join his brother James Folmar and Henry Flynn in home construction. The Folmar brothers' business later expanded to include large commercial shopping center construction throughout the Southeast.

In 1975, he entered politics at the urging of his son David, first running for Montgomery city council. He was soon elected president of the city council and then became Mayor of Montgomery from 1977 till 1999. His time in office was marked by economic growth and an emphasis on law and order.

Mayor Folmar ran as Republican for governor in 1982 against former Democrat Governor George C. Wallace. Although he did not win the election, Emory made the strongest showing of any Republican running for governor since reconstruction to that time.

Very active in Republican politics on the state and national levels, he also served as campaign chairman for Ronald Reagan's finance committee in 1980; state chairman for President Reagan in 1984; and chairman for

Bush-Quayle in 1988 and 1992. After retiring from politics, he was appointed Commissioner of the Alabama Beverage Control Board by then-Governor Bob Riley in 2003. During his time in that post, he streamlined and modernized the ABC to make it more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to send my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Anita; their children, Wilson Bibb and Margaret; and their grandchildren; as well as his sisters, Miriam and Anne, and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING ALBERT BIERSTADT
AND THE HUDSON RIVER
SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a change in the Capitol Visitors Center. Two paintings by the prominent 19th century painter Albert Bierstadt have recently been returned to the Capitol Complex by the Architect of the Capitol. Originally purchased after the Civil War, "Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Monterey," are part of the first indigenous American school of painting, called the Hudson River School. This movement was not just restricted to beautiful landscapes—it also had an important influence on American culture, recreation, and conservation.

Though the Hudson River School originated in upstate New York, painters soon began traveling widely to study and capture new scenes. These travels took the painters to Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, South America, and the American West. Bierstadt is one of the most prominent artists of the Western United States, and has a strong connection to my district in Colorado.

In 1859, Bierstadt traveled to my home State of Colorado and to Wyoming, then territories, with a government surveyor. The large-scale landscapes he painted from his notes and sketches from this trip prompted the creation of many more paintings back in his studio. Bierstadt's depiction of the craggy peaks of the Rockies, the Sierra Nevada, and in Yosemite, among others, resulted in the christening of Mount Bierstadt in my district.

In the 1870s, Congress purchased several of Bierstadt's works, including the two that hang today in the CVC. These same paintings, and other Western landscapes by Hudson River School painters, coupled with a growing environmental conservation movement, inspired Congress to protect this natural beauty through the creation of Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks. Later, these paintings were used again to prompt the formation of the National Park Service.

This is just one example of the Hudson River School of Painters' legacy. The School emphasized realistic, highly detailed scenes that were very popular over the 19th century. These works captured the beauty and variety of the American landscape.

Painters from the Hudson River School also had a hand in the foundation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Inspired by the artistic culture of the capitals of Europe,

School painters joined other area businessmen and academics to form the Met in 1870. Bierstadt met with the President, and other painters of the School served as trustees or as members of the executive committee. Today, many of Bierstadt's works hang in the Met alongside works by many other Hudson River School painters, as well as other institutions like the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Americans of all ages to take the time to view these paintings and consider the beauty and greatness of these landscapes, both on canvas and in the wilderness.

THE FAILURE TO PROTECT FARMERS
AND RANCHERS FROM CORPORATE ABUSES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) final rule that was supposed to protect our Nation's farmers and ranchers from abusive practices in the livestock industry.

Simply put, the final rule is inadequate and shows the power big corporate packers and processors have in this country. The final rule does not include about half of the protections it did in a previous draft.

Congress had to direct USDA in the 2008 farm bill to establish a set of comprehensive protection rules because the department was so slow in responding to the changing marketplace that has become so slanted toward corporate packers and processors that we are losing small farmers at a rapid pace.

The average American chicken grower makes 34 cents per bird while the processing corporation makes \$3.23 per bird. With a profit margin of 34 cents is it any wonder that we have lost over 460,000 small-scale farms since 1982.

USDA claims it is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent marketplace. How can we have a fair and transparent marketplace when we allow corporations to force farmers to sign production contracts where one farmer is paid less than another despite producing the same livestock because there is no way for farmers to determine fair product value since there is no contract disclosure requirement.

In addition, how can USDA claim it supports a fair marketplace when it fails to clearly define conduct that is a violation of law? How are farmers supposed to know when they are being taken advantage of when the governmental agency tasked with protecting them does not tell them what types of practices are a violation of the law?

This House has not helped our Nation's producers either. We recently passed legislation that withholds funding from USDA to move forward with establishing more comprehensive fairness rules. Ultimately, we set the USDA up to fail and farmers and ranchers will suffer because corporate special interests have a stronger lobby than America's producers.

While the final rule will prevent some of the most abusive practices in the poultry industry,