quickly and the movement evolved. Today, this group is in full operation across the country and has chapters in 5 other countries.

Local chapters work largely through other child advocacy organizations to launch their ''missions,'' which help children break the chains of abuse by moving beyond the limits of fear from past mistreatment.

A typical ''mission'' for these children's rights advocates begins with a dispatch from an established organization, with the prescreened verification in the BACA system. The first meeting is similar to the inaugural model in which local chapter members will ride over to welcome the child into the ''family.'' These knights on shiny motorcycles become a much needed lifeline for these frightened children. There are two members of the group that are assigned to the child as consistent sources of stability. These pioneering bikers then become visible in any area that the child may need them ranging from day-to-day errands to court appearances. These children no longer have to live in fear of their abuser because they are empowered through the newly formed camaraderie with their family at BACA.

The organization's creed is a great testament to the outstanding make up of these individuals. In this creed, they denounce the need for popularity or position, they refuse the right to be right, praised, or recognized. Instead they, ''won't give up, shut up, let up, until they have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and showed up for all wounded children. They must go until they drop, ride until they give out, and work till He stops me.'' These men and women are crusaders that provide attention to a much needed and too often forgotten cause. I commend the selfless action of this organization and celebrate the life changing difference that they've made in the lives of children.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE VIRGIL PITTMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice with many across South Alabama who are mourning the loss of a remarkable jurist who left an indelible mark on our community. Judge Virgil Pittman recently passed away at the age of 95.

Born in 1916 in Coffee County in Southeast Alabama where he picked cotton as a young man, the future state and federal judge spent his life devoted to fairness for all.

Before he began his legal journey, Judge Pittman graduated from Enterprise High School, the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama Law School. Upon completion of his studies, he served as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. After three years with the Bureau, he answered his nation's call to service in World War II, donning the uniform of a United States Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Returning stateside after the war, Judge Pittman practiced law in Gadsden, Alabama, for six years before assuming the post of Judge of Alabama's Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, a position he held for 16 years. In 1966, Judge Pittman exchanged his State Circuit judgeship robe for one on the federal bench after he was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson. His career as a federal judge encompassed service in the Middle and Southern Districts of Alabama, spanning 40 years.

In 1971, Judge Pittman became the chief judge of the federal court in Mobile. He was never one to shy away from taking tough positions that he believed were right. This made him unpopular with those who opposed his strong stance against Mobile's then citywide commission form of government. Judge Pittman believed the old system was unfair to non whites and those without political influence. He stood his ground and in the end prevailed.

There were times when Judge Pittman's rulings drew criticism from local politicians and the press, but his determination never wavered. The Mobile Press-Register recently editorialized that Pittman brought many changes to the city, noting he ''changed Mobile for the better and forever.''

If Judge Pittman was an outspoken advocate for civil rights and equal justice for our community he was also a man solely devoted to public service. In all, he sat on the bench for 55 years, taking great pride in his vocation and seeking little reward other than the knowledge that he did what was right.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Lily Lea, their children, Karen, Lee, Joe, Walter, and Lea, and their many grandchildren and friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contribution United States educational institutions have made to innovation and discovery and to congratulate the 13 American universities who were on the list of the top 300 organizations to receive patents from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2010.

I am honored to represent one of these universities, the University of South Florida, USF, whose researchers and students were awarded 83 patents that year. Founded in 1956, USF is currently comprised of four member institutions, located in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee, and Lakeland, FL. One of Florida's leading academic institutions, USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities.

The patents awarded to USF in 2010 cover a wide range of disciplines and could potentially lead to better health care, new fuel cell technologies, improved air purification systems and even future amusement park rides. USF also distinguishes itself as the second most efficient university in research expenditures per patent. This means that USF effectively uses their limited research funding in the development of new patentable products. The University's focus on quality research is a major component in the growth of new industries in the Tampa Bay area and I am glad that their important work is being recognized.

USF has shown a commitment to encouraging innovation not only on their campus, but also throughout the academic community and, in 2010, founded the National Academy of Inventors, NAI. Upon founding, 131 members joined as Charter Members and since then 24 affiliate chapters have been founded at higher learning institutions around the world, with over 500 individual members. The researchers at our colleges and universities often do not receive the attention they deserve and this non-profit organization works to recognize researchers at universities and their affiliated institutions who translate their findings into inventions that may benefit society.

Since the establishment of our Nation, the United States has recognized the important role that innovation plays in growth and development. Our Nation's Founders were wise enough to include protection for intellectual property rights in Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and every day new advances are being made throughout the country that may one day improve our quality of life, spur economic growth, and lead to new technologies. We must continue to support institutions like USF that promote and encourage advances in research, especially when it leads to the awarding of new patents.

I am privileged to represent the students, teachers, and faculty at USF and extend my congratulations to the University's current and future patent holders. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing their achievements and wish USF continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES BELL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize one of my constituents from Chicago, James Bell, as he retires from The Boeing Company after 40 years of service to Boeing and its heritage companies. James is retiring as corporate president and chief financial officer of Chicago-based Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company and America's biggest manufacturing exporter. He is the highest-ranking African-American employee in the company's nearly 100 years of history. His legacy at Boeing transcends race and reflects a record of accomplishment, service, and leadership that came during a time of significant change. During Bell's career, Boeing expanded from being primarily a commercial airplane manufacturer to a company with a diverse portfolio of commercial, military, and civil products and businesses. Boeing's workforce, which includes over 170,000 employees, also has become more diverse, and James helped to make it so. James played a critical role in shaping this diverse workforce, sharing his life experiences, modeling outstanding leadership and mentoring others to become the leaders of tomorrow.

James Bell grew up in south central Los Angeles, the youngest of four children of Clyde