

Monroe County Public Education Foundation, the Monroeville Kiwanis Club (where she was the first woman elected as "Kiwanian of the Year"). She also served as a volunteer for the Monroe County Heritage Museums, and for the Alabama Writers Symposium during their inaugural year. In addition, she served in Israel as the representative of the Monroe County Commission and the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce during performances of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Manifesting her talent, Mrs. Culpepper is a two-time recipient of the Alabama Medical Association's Douglas L. Cannon Recognition for Excellence in Medical Journalism.

As editor of The Monroe Journal and, later, economic developer for Monroe County from 1997–2000 and as chairman of the Monroe County Hospital Board, Mrs. Culpepper was an advocate for accessible health care for all citizens regardless of age, social or economic status. She was a driving force behind expansion of hospital services and creation of a rural health clinic in Monroe County.

Under Mrs. Culpepper's leadership, the hospital in Monroeville embarked on a major expansion and construction project, the creation of a cancer-treatment center and the development of a diabetes support program. She also oversaw the creation of the Monroe Health Foundation and has been a contributor to the foundation.

Today, Mrs. Culpepper serves as executive director of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society. Her commitment to community development—preservation, education, and innovation in enriching the lives of all citizens continues. She is committed to developing a regional network of cultural, civic and humanitarian efforts to benefit all residents of south Alabama and continues to be a friend to Monroe County and Monroe County Hospital in this endeavor.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 30, 2000*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 574, a bill approving the Journal of October 29, 2000. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 575, H.J. Res. 119, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 576, a motion to instruct conferees on the Labor, Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

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#### HONORING JAMES HEIDEN

### HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 30, 2000*

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Mr. James Heiden upon his retire-

ment from Easter Seals. It is an honor to recognize Mr. Heiden and the outstanding service he has given to the entire community of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Heiden has served Easter Seals for 26 years and is currently Executive Director of the local affiliate. Over the past 20 years as director of the local Easter Seals, he has worked tirelessly to implement new programs for this community and to expand Easter Seals services to thousands of families.

Under the direction of Mr. Heiden, the local affiliate serving Montgomery, Philadelphia, Bucks and Chester Counties has become a national leader in early intervention services for children up to five years of age and their families. The Easter Seals affiliate has also been successful in expanding home- and community-based services. They have implemented many cutting-edge programs including specialized assistive technology services for children and adults with disabilities, programs for siblings and families of children with disabilities, and a variety of adaptive recreation programs.

Easter Seals has received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This is a prestigious recognition that has been achieved by only seven percent of early childhood programs nationwide.

It is a privilege to honor the contributions of Mr. James Heiden to the Easter Seals foundation of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. His hard work and dedication is appreciated by all whose lives he has touched.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 30, 2000*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on October 28 and 29, 2000, I was detained with business in my District, and therefore unable to cast my votes on roll call numbers 570 through 576. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 570 through 576.

In addition, this morning, I was unavoidably detained, and therefore unable to cast my votes on roll call numbers 577 and 578. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 577 and 578.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ELMER A. FERGUSON

### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 30, 2000*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, and I am proud to recognize Elmer A. Ferguson in the Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to our nation.

Elmer Ferguson distinguished himself through his devotion to his family, friends, and community. He was born in DeWitt, Arkansas on September 17th, 1910, the son of a local farmer. His family instilled in him the value of

an education, and he and his sister enrolled at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville in 1930, but he was able to remain only for one year because of financial difficulties. Elmer never forgot his hardship, and he would later do everything he could to make sure that deserving students could go to college.

Of course, Elmer made the most of his opportunities, despite his initial challenges. After returning from Russellville, he worked his way from a \$15 a week job at a DeWitt grocery store to being the manager there. Eventually he became a successful grocery store owner, an accomplished farmer, and the well-respected board chairman of the DeWitt Bank and Trust Co., a position he held until he died last week.

Elmer would probably count his family as his greatest success, however. After marrying Gladys Guthrie in 1934, he was blessed with three daughters, seven grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

As mentioned earlier, Elmer always remembered his humble beginnings, and used his success to help others have the opportunities he missed. In 1987, he established the Elmer Ferguson and Gladys Ferguson Charitable Trust, which funded four-year college scholarships for DeWitt students. Elmer also donated a scholarship to the University of Mississippi.

Elmer's generosity and empathy had no limit. He and Gladys gave \$250,000 to the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, and underwrote the creation of the Neuroscience Unit at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, which is named for them. Just eight years ago, both were also named to the honorary board of patrons by the Baptist Medical System Foundation in recognition of their support to that organization.

Sadly, Elmer Ferguson passed away on Friday, about a month after Gladys died. They were great friends of mine, and I will miss them as much as their family, friends, and the great community of those who ever knew them. On behalf of the Congress, I extend my deepest sympathies to their family, even as I encourage them to join me in celebrating their extraordinary lives.

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#### COMMEMORATING NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK, NOVEMBER 19, 2000–NOVEMBER 26, 2000

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 30, 2000*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to serve as Congressional Co-Chairman of National Bible Week with Senator CONRAD BURNS. It is fitting that National Bible Week occurs the week of Thanksgiving, a week used by many to reflect on the past and give thanks for their blessings. Whether you consider the Bible a book of comfort, guidance, or literature, I hope this week will be one of reflection and study of the Bible.

I have read and studied the Bible for as long as I can remember. I memorized passages for Sunday school as a child. As an adult, the Bible has become an important source of guidance.