

legislative initiatives to improve the business climate for realtors throughout the state of Michigan. His achievements include drafting the Land Conservation Plat, which set the standard for land use discussions in Lansing, and writing the Detroit Title Report for Governor John Engler in an effort to help revitalize the thousands of vacant land parcels in the city of Detroit.

However, the workplace is not the only place to which Dennis has spread his involvement and enthusiasm for quality. He has done significant work on behalf of many boards and associations, including Michigan Habitat for Humanity, the People and Land Advisory Board and the Board of Directors for the Employers' Unemployment Compensation Council. His wife, Linda, and children, Brian and Kevin, also deserve credit for providing the love and support so necessary to his professional success and to his dedication to volunteer efforts in the community.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to applaud Dennis Koons for his years of commitment to the Michigan Association of Realtors and to the state of Michigan, both professionally and outside of the office. He has served his profession and his community well, and he will be sorely missed by his friends and coworkers. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dennis and in wishing him the very best in his new position leading the Michigan Bankers Association.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM F. HIZNAY

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of the citizens of the 17th Congressional District of Ohio, it brings me great pleasure to pay tribute to William F. Hiznay, as he receives the rank of Eagle Scout.

Ryan is a member of Boy Scout Troop #44 in Poland. He is not only an outstanding young man and dedicated Eagle Scout, but he is also a dedicated student at Youngstown State University majoring in Engineering.

I join with the citizens of my district in saluting William F. Hiznay, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING
OF THE AS-SIDDIQ INSTITUTE
AND MOSQUE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani and recognize the grand opening of the As-Siddiq Institute and Mosque. The Institute will be opened to the public at a ceremony to be held on November 18th in Burton, Michigan.

Shaykh Kabbani has worked tirelessly to build bridges of understanding between Mus-

lims and persons of other faiths. He has endeavored to provide insight into the beauty and peace of Islam. As a nationally recognized spokesperson, Shaykh Kabbani has been interviewed by various news media and has advised the political leadership of our country. He has brought a warmhearted perspective of Islam to thousands of persons who had had no previous exposure to the religion. Shaykh Kabbani commands the respect of elected officials at every level of government. President Bush invited him to the prayer service at the National Cathedral on September 14th where he joined with our nation's leaders and clergy of many faiths in petitioning Allah (swt) to bless the United States.

In keeping with Shaykh Kabbani's commitment to promote mainstream Muslim values and traditional Islamic teachings of religious tolerance, and condemnation of terrorism, he is opening the As-Siddiq Institute and Mosque for the public. The Institute will house an outreach center, research library, adult learning center, community meeting place and center for interfaith cooperation. The center will serve as a resource for both Muslims and non-Muslims alike to learn the tenets of Islam—moderation, tolerance, peace and justice. I am pleased that Shaykh Kabbani chose to locate this center of education and worship in my Congressional district.

Housed in a former Episcopal Church, the building will remain a house of worship with the opening of the Mosque. Many Islamic communities around the world, including those in the republics of the former Soviet Union, have donated artifacts and handwritten Korans to grace the Mosque. The faithful will be able to draw inspiration from these symbols of their faith handed down through the generations.

Stressing the common religious heritage of Muslims, Christians and Jews, Shaykh Kabbani will be joined at the opening ceremony by Cardinal Adam Maida, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, Rabbi James Michaels of Temple Beth Israel, Reverend George L. Cleaves of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church and many other guests of honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in asking that God continue to bless Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani and the As-Siddiq Institute and Mosque as they carry on the work bringing spirituality and dignity to all persons.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2500,
DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support of language in the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Conference Report for FY 2002 directing the Department of Justice to fund the building of a jail facility for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. I would like to thank Chairman WOLF

and Ranking Member SERRANO for including language in the conference report to address the law enforcement needs of the Choctaws.

It has taken the Tribe over 4 years to reach the point of obtaining funding after the Congress directed the Department of Justice to fund the design phase of the detention facility in the FY 1998 Commerce, Justice, State Conference Report. The Choctaws have encountered many obstacles as they sought to satisfy both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Justice Department through compliance with their varying jurisdictions, regulations, and interpretations of law enforcement for Indian tribes. These delays have resulted in a deterioration of law enforcement, disrespect for the tribal courts and an escalation in the costs of the facility. Further delay will only exacerbate these problems. The Choctaw Tribe is firm in its view that detention is essential to the maintenance of law and order on the Choctaw Reservation. The detention facility currently being used was built in 1973 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a temporary holding facility designed to hold 18 prisoners for up to 72 hours. Today, an average of 33 offenders are being held daily. Due to the lack of space, only the most serious and repeat offenders are incarcerated to serve time. The lack of space has also hindered the courts and law enforcement officials because judges have to rely on "deferred sentencing." Simply put, the current facility is inadequate to meet existing needs, not to mention the projected law enforcement needs of the Tribe and its growing population.

I would also like to point out that two studies performed in 1992 found the facility to be "not fit for human habitation" and "structurally flawed and essentially inoperable." The first study was completed in October 1992 by the National Institute of Corrections, U.S. Department of Justice. The second was completed in December 1992 by the U.S. Public Health Services, Office of Engineering Services, in New York, New York. Tribal funds were used to correct the most egregious life safety code violations and to renovate a small portion of the facility to house more juveniles. Yet with these and other continuing efforts, the current facility still poses a threat to inmates, staff, and the public.

To ensure the Choctaws can exercise fully and fairly its sovereign responsibility to protect all people and property on its reservation, they have sought funding from the U.S. Department of Justice for construction of a new jail facility to house both adults and juvenile offenders. The conference language will allow the Department of Justice to expedite the allocation of FY 2002 funds to the Choctaws so construction on the new detention facility can begin as soon as possible.

The Mississippi Choctaws have worked tirelessly to preserve the integrity of the Tribe's law enforcement services on the reservation, despite the lack of an appropriate detention facility. I am pleased that my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee have recognized the great need to fund this important project. I look forward to working with the Mississippi Choctaws and the Department of Justice to ensure the Tribe's law enforcement needs are addressed.