

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
JIM McCRERY ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable JIM McCRERY for his service to the people of Louisiana and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman McCRERY has represented the 4th Congressional District of the state of Louisiana for the past 20 years.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana and raised in Leesville, Louisiana, JIM attended Louisiana Tech University in Ruston and received degrees in English and history. In 1975, he earned his Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University and was admitted to the Louisiana Bar that same year. JIM then got his start in politics working as district manager for former Congressman Buddy Roemer and later as his legislative director in Washington, D.C.

Since his election in 1988, JIM has fought hard for issues important to the state of Louisiana, including defense and national security policy. He has also concentrated much of his efforts toward reducing the cost of healthcare and producing fundamental tax reform.

In 2001, JIM'S dedication and hard work were recognized by the Louisiana chapter of the March of Dimes when he was named Citizen of the Year. He has also been recognized for his efforts in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, which devastated his home state in 2005. In 2006, the New Orleans Times-Picayune praised his ability to work across party lines, noting "That legislation (\$8 billion in tax credits for Louisiana) is among the most significant tools for this region's recovery."

Dubbed an "economic guardian" by Congressional Quarterly, JIM serves as ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee. As a member of this powerful committee, JIM has played key roles in writing legislation for a prescription-drug program for seniors and passing major tax bills. JIM is regarded by his colleagues as an expert on the issue of welfare reform and played a key role in the passage of historic welfare reform legislation. He was also co-author of the landmark legislation, the Medicare Preservation Act.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Johnette; their two children, Scott and Clark; and his many colleagues and friends join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the state of Louisiana and the United States of America.

JIM will surely enjoy the well-deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of the House amendments to Senate amendments to H.R. 2638, Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act.

Name of Requesting Member: GRESHAM BARRETT.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account Number: 2 Darpa 0601101E Defense Research Sciences.

Name and address of requesting entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is Clemson University, located at Clemson University, South Carolina.

Description of earmark including amount and spending plan: I am requesting \$1.28 million of funding for Clemson University Advanced Photonic Composites Research. This program will be used for development of the next generation of materials for use in optical and laser-based communication, health, automotive, and defense platforms. It will provide the necessary coordinated and concentrated effort to bring high information capacity, low power consuming optical technologies to the soldier. The research will continue to focus on novel active and passive materials and optical devices for advanced lighting, directed energy, sensing, and switching, as well as ways to make their performance controllably adaptive, such that one technology may now be used for a myriad of applications. I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of my spouse or me.

PERSHING HEALTH SYSTEM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Pershing Health System, who will be dedicating a new addition to their healthcare facility on October 4th, 2008. This addition consists of a 38,000 square foot addition that will provide better care and access to the patients who utilize the services of Pershing Health System.

Pershing Health System provides services to over 40,000 patients each year. Pershing Health System has been providing service to its patients since 1960, and these latest improvements will help to see that its patients receive the best care possible.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Pershing Health System, a professional health care system that strives to provide the best care to the patients it serves. It is truly an honor to serve Pershing Health System in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KING GEORGE RURITAN CLUB

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the King George Ruritan Club on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. This fine association has its origins in 1938 when a group of men banded together for the concerns of the well-being of King George County to form the King George Ruritan Club.

The King George Ruritan Club was sponsored by the Richmond County Ruritan on October 31, 1938, and granted National Charter # 57 with 27 members on the roster with J. W. Bland elected President. The Club began its service to the community in support of PTAs, church groups, the Daughters of America and the Rebekah Lodge by serving Ruritan dinners to raise funds for their activities.

King George Ruritan was reorganized in 1948 after WW II with their new major initiatives to focus on the construction of sidewalks through the village to protect school children, and the King George Volunteer Fire Department. Throughout the 1950's the Club was instrumental in the installation of a public telephone at the Court House, the collection clothes for the needy, and support of the Ground Observer Corps.

The Club's philanthropic programs in the late 1950's were the installation of lights on the High School athletic field and organizing the Fall Festival with the profits going to the Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

In the 1960's the Club turned its attention toward a community center which became a reality in 1979 with John Owens turning the first spade of soil representing the King George Ruritans.

The Club's main fundraiser in the 1970's was hauling manure from Hopyard Farm with the primary benefactor being the first community service group supporting the establishment of the King George Rescue Squad telemetry system. The Club also donated flag poles to the American Legion and King George Fire House, followed by the creation of a memorial scholarship in honor of J. Graf-ton McGinniss.

The Club's support for the Boy Scouts began with the Charter in 1938. In 1954 the Club chartered Boy Scout Troop 191, which by the 1980s had grown to include the Cubs, Webelos and Explorer Scouts, which the Club still charters.

In the late 1980s, the Club relied on its Chicken Barbeque as its primary fundraiser in addition to other food service activities. In 1989 the Club started the Rudy Ruritan Bear Program with 10 bears given to the Sheriff's Department and 10 to the Rescue Squad and this program still continues.

The King George Ruritan Club reached several significant milestones in the last decade. In 1999 the Club added its first female member who joined to carry on her husband's work and by 2000 there were a total of 6 women in the Club. The first female President was elected in 2003. In 2004, King George Ruritan Club