

When Greg decided to return to Washington, DC, to pursue his love of politics, his timing could not have been better. Greg took on the gargantuan and unenviable task of preparing my official papers to be archived at the Albert Gore Research Center at my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. Greg attacked this mountain of paper with impressive organization and patience. Analyzing and cataloging 26 years worth of legislative records, invitations, correspondence and press files is no small feat, and the process of closing my office would not have gone as smoothly without Greg's dedication to the project. Greg's work made it possible for me and my staff to continue at full throttle with the office's legislative work through the end of my term this year. In addition, it has helped to establish a historical record of the district and the legislative process that I hope will be valuable to MTSU students and Middle Tennesseans for generations to come.

It has been wonderful to have Greg on the team once again. Those who worked with him before welcomed the return of his dry sense of humor and natural charm, and the newer members of my staff have developed an appreciation for his passion for the Georgia Bulldogs, enthusiasm for war movies, and love of both types of music—country and western.

Madam Speaker, Greg Holyfield has done great work in the service of the Sixth District of Tennessee. He comes from a good Tennessee family, and I know they are very proud of him. Greg, thank you for your help to my office and your service to our country. I wish you all the best in the future.

HONORING WOLFGANG HERZOG

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, on the evening of December 17, 2010, hundreds of friends and colleagues, as well as state and local officials in southwest Germany, will gather to honor one of the most unique business leaders that I have had the privilege to encounter—Wolfgang Herzog. He serves as the director of utility services for the city of Kaiserslautern, Germany. He has emerged as a leader in German programs designed to further promote and enhance critical host-nation relations with the huge American military components in the region. Kaiserslautern, a city whose U.S. military and business profile is so pronounced that it is now called The American City in Germany, is the home to nearly 55,000 Americans, making it the largest U.S. military outpost overseas.

The cooperation of the U.S. military with the leaders of the community is an essential component of overseas forces activities. It is the host-nation city that makes possible the logistical, social, cultural, and infrastructure that provide for workable and meaningful relations between our troops and the people of a foreign nation which surrounds them.

Over the last two decades Mr. Herzog has escorted numerous city officials and associates to Washington. He has met with multiple

Senators and Representatives to profile the extent of Kaiserslautern's commitment to its American neighbors.

Mr. Herzog has also been welcomed at the Pentagon by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as the Army and Air Force Chiefs of Staff. He has often worked with military staff in providing efficient energy services and protecting environmental standards.

Mr. Herzog has received tributes from senior American military leaders in Kaiserslautern. General Roger Brady, Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe presented him with the Medal of Distinction. Army Major General Patricia McQuiston, Commander of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, decorated him with the Soaring Eagle Award.

The Lord Mayor of Kaiserslautern, Dr. Klaus Weichel and all of the residents of the region join with me in saying to Mr. Herzog: *Ad Multos Annos!*

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF EMILY PHELPS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Emily Phelps for her contributions to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services program would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Emily Phelps has served as my communications director throughout this last year of my term. Even though I announced a year ago that I was retiring, my staff and I have not slowed down one bit since then. My legislative efforts have continued, and Emily has done a tremendous job of ensuring my constituents know how new laws will affect their families and their communities.

Emily has put in long hours and hard work to manage outreach on Congress' actions on health care reform, the controversy surrounding failing brakes in some Toyota models, and my efforts to ban imports of foreign-generated nuclear waste. After floods ravaged Tennessee this spring, Emily provided up-to-the-minute reports about disaster assistance through my website and outreach to local media. While the Science and Technology Committee's communications director was out on maternity leave, Emily split her time, assisting with hearing, managing a press conference related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and preparing for House consideration of the America COMPETES Act.

Madam Speaker, Emily has a bright, continued future ahead of her in communications.

She is thoughtful, offers good ideas and insight, maintains ease and comfort with reporters, and, as all good staff does, advocates an alternative opinion rather than just agreeing with the status quo.

My staff and I have enjoyed getting to know Emily and having her in the office. Her easy-going nature, with a touch of endearing quirkiness, is a pleasant counter to the clamor of Congress. Emily, I thank you for helping me accomplish so much this year, and I wish you all the best.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF CHRISTOPHER
RACKENS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Christopher Rackens for his contributions to the Sixth District of Tennessee while serving on my Washington, DC staff. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Chris Rackens joined my office during the final week of House consideration of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a bill that sparked public interest exceeding anything I have seen during my time in Congress. It was a week of unprecedented call volumes that sometimes crashed the House phone system. Although he had just joined us days before, Chris helped to staff the office over the weekend to provide updates to constituents in Middle Tennessee who were following the debate. It was an exciting and challenging time for even the most veteran staffers. Unfazed, Chris jumped right into his staff assistant duties with professionalism under pressure, a great attitude, and a pride in his small-town upbringing that endeared him right away to his colleagues in Washington and Tennessee.

Chris was always eager to tackle any task, which served him well as he was promoted from staff assistant to legislative aide. Chris has covered legislation in the areas of education and government reform, answering constituent concerns and assisting Tennessee universities and state entities that needed assistance working with federal agencies. In addition, he also took on the role of systems administrator for the office, an often thankless and time consuming job.

During the last months, Chris has shown real leadership in the move from our Rayburn office to transition space in preparation for closing my Washington and Tennessee offices. He has handled many of the major