

from the Freely Associated States, FAS, residing in the United States, including the territories. Impact Aid was originally authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1965 to compensate local school districts for the costs of educating federally connected children. Examples of these kinds of students include those whose parents live on military bases, live on Indian lands, or are the children of accredited foreign diplomats. However, the Impact Aid program does not compensate local schools for the costs incurred by educating students from the FAS.

The United States entered into the Compacts of Free Association with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau and under the Compacts, citizens of these countries can enter the United States without a visa. Thus, children whose parents are citizens of the FAS are in schools in the States and territories under a special immigration category and are federally connected just as children of military families are similarly federally connected. This legislation would provide a means for the Federal Government to provide assistance to impacted local education authorities.

Madam Speaker, the economic downturn has forced many local school districts to cut education budgets. This is a longstanding issue for affected jurisdictions and they need this to be redressed now more than ever. I would like to thank Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FALOMAVAEGA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SABLON, and Mr. PIERLUISI for joining with me as original cosponsors. I will work with these cosponsors to pass this bill during the 111th Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
SONNY CALLAHAN—2009 “MOBIL-
IAN OF THE YEAR”

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my dear friend and predecessor, former Congressman Sonny Callahan, for being selected as 2009 Mobilian of the Year by the Cottage Hill Civitan Club.

To the people of South Alabama, Sonny needs no introduction. He has dedicated much of his life to serving our area. A Navy veteran and a self-made local business success, Sonny has never known a time when he was not giving back to his community.

First elected to public office representing Mobile in the Alabama House of Representatives in 1971, Sonny embarked on a journey that took him to the Alabama State Senate and eventually to Washington, DC, where he labored in this House for no less than 18 years.

He quickly made a name for himself in these Halls, earning the gavel of one of the 13 subcommittee chairmanships on the House Appropriations Committee after only 10 years in office. He was named chairman of the powerful Subcommittee on Foreign Operations in 1995, protecting America's interests and investments around the world.

In 2000, he became the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on En-

ergy and Water Development. In this position, Sonny worked closely with the Bush Administration to develop and finance a new national energy policy.

While chairman of this subcommittee, he also served as vice chairman of Foreign Operations and was a member of the Transportation Subcommittee.

In an era of stark partisanship that too often divides this Chamber, Sonny Callahan knew only friends as he served in Congress. His ability to reach out across the aisle won him universal praise and enabled him to accomplish much for his district and the State of Alabama.

After retirement from Congress in 2003, Sonny has refused to settle down into a quiet life of leisure. In addition to work in his own government consulting firm, Sonny was named by Governor Bob Riley to serve on the Alabama Port Authority Board. In 2004, Sonny was named Patriot of the Year by local veterans groups, and in 2005, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mobile named its Theodore activity center the Sonny Callahan Boys and Girls Club Building.

I wish to personally congratulate Sonny Callahan for having received the honor of “Mobilian of the Year,” and on behalf of the people of South Alabama, I thank Sonny, his wife, Karen, and their children and grandchildren, for their continued service and dedication to the state and the people we so dearly love.

HONORING GALVESTON
BUSINESSES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on March 4th, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will hold its 164th annual meeting. Established by the Ninth Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1845, making it the oldest chamber of commerce in Texas, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce works to promote and advocate for the business community of Galveston.

At the March 4th meeting, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will honor 32 Galveston businesses who have served the Galveston Community for 100 years or longer. The Port of Galveston, which has been in operation since 1825, is the oldest business in the community.

It is truly a remarkable achievement that these 32 businesses kept their doors open through several hurricanes, tropical storms, recessions, and the Great Depression.

I certainly agree with Gina Spagnola, president of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, who said “Our business community is the lifeblood of our community, and we must continue to welcome, appreciate, encourage, support and protect them.”

Madam Speaker, it is a tremendous pleasure to join my friends at the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in saluting these businesses for their years of service to the people of Galveston. I am truly honored to serve as their representative and hope all my colleagues all join me in congratulating these outstanding businesses. I have attached a list of the names of the businesses that will be honored

on March 4 and the date that the companies were established.

Del Papa Distributing Company, 1910; Moody National Bank, 1907; American National Insurance Company, 1905; Biehl & Company, 1905; Rosenberg Library, 1904; Malloy & Son Funeral Home, 1902; Fred Hartel Company, 1900; Galveston Country Club, 1898; the Grand 1894 Opera House, 1894; and Stewart Title, 1893.

Galveston Insurance Associates, 1892; University of Texas Medical Branch, 1891; Galveston Independent School District, 1884; AT&T, 1878; The Children's Center, Inc., 1878; Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 1876; Frost Bank, 1874; Grace Episcopal Church, 1868; J. Levy & Termini Funeral Home, 1868; Galveston County Medical Society, 1865; and Texas Gas Service, 1856.

Ott Monument Works, 1854; First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1850; Mills Shirley LLP, 1846; Galveston Chamber of Commerce, 1845; Gal-Tex Pilots Service Corporation, 1845; Galveston County Daily News, 1842; Trinity Episcopal Church, 1841; First Baptist Church, 1840; Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 1838; City of Galveston, 1837; Port of Galveston, 1825.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues today to express my deep sadness at the passing of our colleague, Jack Murtha.

As I look around the Floor of the House this evening, I see Democrats and I see Republicans. I see veteran members of the so-called “Pennsylvania corner” and I see freshmen members—from California, from the northeast, from the south. I see Jack's fellow appropriators, and I see members who, on other days perhaps, boast proudly of never seeking earmarks. Jack Murtha was one of the few members of this body who could draw together such an eclectic group.

That is not a surprise—for Jack Murtha was truly a man of the House. He was a Member's Member. He cared about his colleagues, and he respected his colleagues—even when he thought they were wrong. Being able to disagree civilly has—to the great detriment of our public life—become an uncommon quality in Washington. Jack practiced it better than anyone.

Jack was a legislator. His ability and willingness to work with almost anyone was one of the reasons Jack was so effective—if you're a Democrat and wanted something done, you wanted Jack on your side. If you're a Republican and wanted something done, you wanted Jack on your side.

Jack was a Representative. He loved his District, respected his constituents, and worked as hard for them as any Member ever has.

Jack was an institutionalist. He believed in this House of Representatives, he defended its prerogatives, and he protected them. It has been my great privilege to work closely with

two of the greatest defenders Congress has ever seen—the senior Senator from my own state . . . and Jack Murtha.

Jack was a leader. His respect for his colleagues and his commitment to this House informed his role as Chairman. Jack recognized the importance of what we do here, and Jack was always—always—prepared. There was never a man more suited to the gavel than Jack Murtha.

Jack was a Marine. If he had not been a Marine, he could have played the part—the man radiated strength and purpose in every action he took. But Jack not only looked the part, he was the genuine article. And there is, of course, no such thing as a former Marine—once a Marine, always a Marine. As fiercely as Jack defended the prerogatives of Congress, his commitment to our House took a back seat to his commitment to men and women in uniform. The service member—an infantryman outside Fallujah, a Marine in Afghanistan, an airman in Bagram, a sailor in the Persian Gulf—has never had a better protector than Jack Murtha. Jack was one of them.

That is the chief reason he didn't hesitate when he came out so publicly against the War in Iraq—something that earned him the respect of many and the enmity of some. I don't know that he didn't care about either judgment, but I do know that neither applause nor condemnation guided his decision at all. His allegiance was to the men and women in the field.

To me, Jack was a friend and a mentor. In a sense that was a relationship I inherited. My

father, who represented West Virginia's First District until he retired in 1982, worked closely with Jack. Shortly after I won election to his seat, Dad told me that I would never go wrong seeking Jack's counsel. He was right.

Finally, Jack was a family man, a loving husband and partner to his wife, Joyce, and parent to Donna, John, and Patrick. Their loss cannot be described by words. They have my deepest condolences.

Jack will be missed by all.

HONORING PASTOR WALTER
THOMAS RICHARDSON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor one of the most devoted and beloved leaders in South Florida, Dr. Walter Thomas Richardson, whose dedication to God, his faith and his community has allowed him to break social barriers and touched thousands of lives.

Since 1983, Pastor Richardson has served as Senior Pastor of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church in Perrine, Florida and his preaching has enriched the faith and lives of many. He is a Miami native, married to M. Dolores, father to Walter L. and LaKisha, and proud grandfather of seven. His family has played a key role in his development as pastor and community leader. He learned of the im-

portance of community service at a young age, from his parents, Bishop Walter H. and Mrs. Poseline M. Richardson and in 1969, while serving in the military, felt a calling for the ministry. His education has also played an important role in his formation. He obtained both Bachelor and Master Degrees from St. Thomas University, and a Doctorate from Trinity Theological Seminary.

Pastor Richardson is a leading voice of social justice and multicultural integration. His congregation is formed by Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, Haitians and several Caribbean Islands among many other groups. His love of service has manifested itself in multiple ways. He is a professor of religion at St. Thomas University, Chaplain in the Miami-Dade Police Department, and Board Member of Florida Memorial College, New World School of the Arts, the Community Relations Board and the Alliance for Human Services, to name a few. He is also author of *Going through Samaria*, a book which teaches about the importance of Christianity, and had recorded 30 songs and composed more than 100. His unique service and leadership has gained him recognitions from the City of Miami, the City of Fort Lauderdale and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As we celebrate Black History Month, I ask you to join me in honoring the work of Pastor Walter Thomas Richardson and thanking him for his service to our community. He has improved the lives of many.