

Legislative leaders from 20 nations, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and the host Taiwan are expected to participate. It is unfortunate that, because of our legislative schedule, no member of this House or of the other body are able to attend.

However, Mr. Speaker, I did want to take note of this important meeting that will focus on the role of Congress in the various democratic governing models, such as the parliamentary system and the presidential system. Another important set of discussions will focus on the issue of legislative elections in various democracies, how they are conducted, and how they are financed.

I congratulate Taiwan's political leaders who were instrumental in creating the DPU and the Pacific Congressional Caucus. Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu was the prime mover in bringing the DPU into existence and the Speaker of Taiwan's Legislative Yuan, Wang Jin-Pyng, was instrumental in establishing the Pacific Congressional Caucus and in organizing such meetings as the one this weekend.

This effort in Taiwan has been truly bipartisan, with Vice President Lu a member of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, and Speaker Wang a key leader of the Nationalist Party, known as the KMT.

Because Taiwan is one of Asia's most dynamic democracies, it is fitting that Taiwan has been instrumental in forming the DPU and the Caucus and in organizing this symposium. I congratulate Taiwan and wish all the participants a rewarding series of meetings.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE F.P. "SKIPPY" WHITE FOR OVER THREE DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize Alabama State Representative F.P. "Skippy" White for his dedicated, faithful public service to the citizens of Baldwin and Escambia Counties.

Representative White has been a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama for over three decades. He began his public service career as a councilman for the city of Polard, AL, and served for 7 years. In 1982, he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives and served in that capacity for 24 years.

During his career in the Alabama State Legislature, Representative White worked tirelessly on behalf of south Alabama. He was distinguished as an outstanding legislator and served on the House Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the faithful service of outstanding Americans like Skippy White has aided in an immeasurable way to the well being of our community. I would like to offer my congratulations for his many personal and professional achievements. I know his wife, Clara; his children, Todd, Hugh, and Sarah Anne; and his family and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and

extending thanks for his many efforts on behalf of south Alabama.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER CASEY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Casey for his numerous contributions to his community.

Walter moved to Las Vegas, NV in 1951 under the advice of his doctor. He started out working for a maintenance company and eventually started a water conditioning and purification company called Walt Casey Water Conditioning and later Walt Casey's Culligan in the 1950s. Walt Casey's Culligan is now known as the largest water conditioning company in the state.

Walter also dedicated his life to enriching the lives of others in the community. He was a founding board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas and served as the vice chairman of the Colorado River Commission. According to his son, Walter's optimism helped him to devote his time and effort to developing promising ideas into large successes.

November 30, 2006, just 2 days after Walter and his wife, Peggy, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, Walter passed away from a heart attack. He was 88 years old.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Walter Casey for his outstanding efforts to improve the state of Nevada. He will be greatly missed by the entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHIAN FEDERATION AND ADAMANTIOS (DIMIS) TH. VASSILAKIS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, RECIPIENT OF THE 29TH ANNUAL HOMERIC AWARD

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Chian Federation, which is presenting its 29th annual Homeric Award to Adamantios (Dimis) Th. Vassilakis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations. Their gala event has been organized under the leadership of the Chian Federation's President, George Almiroudis, and the Event Chair, who is also First Vice President of the Chian Federation, Alexandros Doulis.

The Chian Federation was founded in 1974. Since then it has educated and empowered the Hellenic American community to exercise their rights and fulfill their obligations as American citizens. The Chian Federation has a strong record of advocating human rights and striving to promote democratic ideals. In addition to its political objectives, the organization sponsors a dance group; cultural events; a Web site; a magazine; business card exchanges; food, clothing and toy drives; a Senior Citizens' breakfast; and lectures on topics ranging from archaeology to health care.

The Federation's accomplishments extend beyond the borders of the United States. On Chios, the Chian Federation has financially aided nursing homes, environmental groups for reforestation of the island, the Korais Library and the Office of the Repatriated Chians Organization, in addition to making substantial donations to the educational and health systems of Chios.

The Chian Federation established the Homeric Award in 1977, with the idea of recognizing individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the Hellenic community. Ambassador Vassilakis earned this honor through his outstanding service to Greece as a diplomat, and as a friend to the Hellenic community in New York.

Ambassador Vassilakis was born on the island of Chios on June 13, 1942, where he grew up and received his basic education, graduating from the Commercial High School of Chios. He then attended the Free University of Brussels, Belgium earning a Licence in Political and Diplomatic Sciences.

Mr. Vassilakis entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1972 as Embassy Attaché, and was appointed Third Secretary of Embassy at the Greek Embassy in Tirana, Albania in 1975. In 1977, he moved to the Foreign Ministry's First Department of Political Affairs, he was Head of Section for the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe. He served as a member of various Greek delegations visiting Eastern European countries and was a participant in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Common Market political experts meetings.

In 1985, Mr. Vassilakis was made Consul General of Greece in San Francisco, California, where he was promoted to First Counsellor of Embassy. In 1989, he was appointed Head of Section for Bilateral Greek-United States, Iranian, Turkish and Arab Countries in the Foreign Ministry's Department of Bilateral Economic Relations. In 1990, Mr. Vassilakis entered the Department of European Community Affairs. In 1991, he was named Deputy Permanent Representative in the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations, and in 1994, he became Chargé d'Affaires. In 1998, he was promoted to Minister Plenipotentiary (1st class). From 1999, Mr. Vassilakis served as Director General for European Affairs and Director of the Centre for Analysis and Planning in Greece's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2002, he was appointed to his present position.

Ambassador Vassilakis is married to Fay Malouf-Vassilakis and they have two children, Theodore and Athena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Chian Federation and its honoree, the Honorable Adamantios (Dimis) Th. Vassilakis.

TRIBUTE TO JERRIS LEONARD, A GREAT AMERICAN

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a great American, outstanding public servant, and an esteemed colleague and good friend, the Honorable Jerris Leonard, whose sudden passing on July 27, 2006,

was mourned by his family and countless friends whose lives he touched. Jerris's life was devoted to God, family, country, and his fellow man, and he leaves a legacy of integrity and service that will long be remembered and appreciated.

Jerris received his undergraduate and law degrees from Marquette University, where he was president of the Marquette student body and was elected to Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit Honor Society. Following graduation from Marquette University Law School in 1955, Jerris began his career in Wisconsin. He was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1956, representing the North Shore suburbs of Milwaukee. In 1960 he was elected to the state Senate and became Senate majority leader in 1967. In 1968 he was the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate, but lost to incumbent Senator Gaylord Nelson.

In 1969 Jerris moved his family to Washington, DC, when he was appointed by President Nixon and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He served in that capacity until 1971, when President Nixon appointed him the first Administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, a position he held for the next 2 years. Jerris remained in Washington, where he has been actively engaged in the practice of law and advocacy. Most recently, in 2005, he launched The Leonard Group to focus on legislative and lobbying activities. He also served on the Bush-Cheney Transition Department of Justice Advisory Committee, which helped the Administration find key candidates for the agency.

In recognition of his considerable accomplishments, Jerris was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquette University Law School in 2000. In 1969 he received the Belle Case LaFollette Outstanding Professional Award from the Wisconsin Law Foundation. He is the author of numerous articles and was frequently invited to speak to groups throughout the United States.

Jerris was one of the original true conservatives, who championed core conservative values throughout his career and through his service in various organizations, such as Free Congress. His intellect and experience were invaluable to advancing the conservative agenda, and his engaging personality and enthusiasm for policy and politics were contagious. Jerris was a true statesman who made friends on both sides of the political aisle.

His friendships extended well beyond the realm of politics and career, however. He made friends in all walks of life. "He treated everyone the same, and that is what I think made him special," said his daughter Kate Leonard. On the day he was to be sworn in by President Nixon as an assistant attorney general, Jerris gathered his children and instructed them that they were going to meet the President, but they were to remember that the man who parks the car is just as important and just as deserving of respect.

Jerris was devoted to his wife, Mariellen, to whom he was married for 52 years, and to his family. He took an active interest in the lives of his six children and attended countless sports events and other activities in which they were involved. In addition to Mariellen, he is survived by his children, Mary Leonard Ralston and husband David, Gib Leonard and wife Joni, John Leonard and wife Jeannine,

Kathleen (Kate) Leonard, Francis Leonard and wife Kelly, and Daniel Leonard and wife Kelly, 16 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was greatly loved.

Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues in the House of Representatives knew and admired Jerris Leonard. I valued his friendship and advice, as did so many others, and we will greatly miss him. It is impossible to fully grasp the breadth and depth of a life of someone like Jerris, who gave every project or responsibility his very best effort and who lived his life with boundless enthusiasm and compassion. He was a role model and mentor to so many, and he leaves a powerful legacy that will last for generations to come. As we adjourn today, let us do so in tribute to this great American, dedicated public servant, and truly great man—Jerris Leonard.

---

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
ANN BAIRD

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Mrs. Ann Baird, County Commissioner of Miami County, OH, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to public service. For more than 40 years, Mrs. Baird has contributed her talents to the betterment of Miami County, and for this, I offer her my utmost congratulations and thanks.

Her love of Miami County is unmistakable. During her long career in public service, Mrs. Baird has served on countless community boards and organizations in various roles including: Director of Community Services at Upper Valley Medical Center, Past President of the Miami County Chapter for the American Cancer Society, Past President of the United Methodist Women, Past President of the Troy United Fund, member of the Edison Community College Board of Trustees, and of course serving as the first female Miami County Commissioner for the past 12 years.

Mrs. Baird's record—as an elected official, a church leader, and as a good neighbor helping those in need—will leave an enduring legacy in Miami County. Her leadership will be missed, but the footprint she has left will inspire many to emulate her good works.

Mrs. Baird, I offer my congratulations and gratitude for your long and successful career in public service. I wish you well in your future retirement, and I hope you continue to achieve happiness and success wherever your life journey may lead you.

---

SAVING ENERGY THROUGH  
RECYCLING

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the energy security issues we face and to highlight the important role renewable energy plays in producing reli-

able electricity and curbing demand for power transmission equipment. Given this importance, we must continue to support initiatives to improve transmission, increase generation nationally and encourage renewable energy and conservation.

Effective renewable energy policy must include the significant invested energy available through greater recycling. Manufacturing recycled products requires, on average, 17 times less energy than manufacturing the same products from virgin materials. In addition to the traditionally understood benefits of recycling as a conservation and waste management tool, recycling is becoming increasingly understood as an energy source available to combat the Nation's growing energy crisis.

For example, recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy required to make the same amount of aluminum from its virgin source. The amount of lost energy from throwing away aluminum and steel cans, plastic PET and glass containers, newsprint and corrugated packaging was equivalent to the annual output of 15 medium sized coal power plants. Increasing the recycling rate of these commodities by 10 percent would save enough energy annually to heat 74,350 million American homes, provide the required electricity for 2.5 million Americans, and save about \$771 million in avoid costs for barrels of crude oil. As a result, recycling should be an integral component of our Nation's energy efficiency strategy.

The Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 acknowledged the high invested energy content of recyclables. Section 1353 mandated the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to conduct a study to determine and quantify the energy savings achieved through the recycling of glass, paper, plastic, steel, aluminum, and electronic devices, and to identify tax incentives that would encourage recycling of such materials. As chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I was deeply involved in the creation of this legislation, which I am proud to say was achieved with strong bipartisan participation and support.

The Environmental Protection Agency has shown that recycling saves billions in energy costs and hundreds of millions of tons of raw materials. American companies that engage in the use of renewable resources and recyclable materials are already contributing countless billions of dollars per year to our Nation's energy grid. These companies are engaging in practices that are environmentally friendly and energy conservative.

By harvesting the invested energy in recycling, this country saves tens of millions of tons of ore, coal, trees and billions of dollars in energy costs. Recycling programs offer a means to conserve natural resources, ease the burden on the grid, reduce excessive municipal waste, protect the environment, create jobs, and save energy.

Like the energy drawn from wind or from water behind a dam, recyclable materials contain a vast amount of energy that is available to be harvested. Recyclables possess invested energy, and in order to remain competitive, we must focus on capturing the energy that is already invested in recycling. Through recognition of these policy objectives, we will create the most efficient market-based solutions to ensure a safe, abundant, and stable energy supply to our citizens for years to come.