TRIBUTE TO THE ALTOONA CURVE BASEBALL CLUB

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Altoona Curve Baseball Club of Altoona, Pennsylvania, for winning the Minor League Baseball's 2006 John H. Johnson President's Trophy. This award, given annually since 1974, is the highest honor given by Minor League Baseball each year to one of their 176 member clubs for being the top franchise in the league. This award is Minor League Baseball's equivalent of college football's Heisman Trophy. The President's Trophy was presented to the Altoona Curve on December 7, at Minor League Baseball's annual awards banquet.

The presentation of the John H. Johnson President's Trophy marks the third occasion that the Altoona Curve Baseball Club has received one of Minor League Baseball's most important awards. In the last two years, the Altoona Curve has also received the Larry MacPhail Promotional Trophy, as well as Baseball America's Bob Freitas Award. The Curve Club is just the 11th franchise to have received all 3 awards, and is also the first team to receive these awards in just 3 year's time.

The Altoona Curve's commitment to the communities of central and western Pennsylvania has been impressive from day one. In the short 8 years since their establishment in 1999, The Altoona Curve has certainly become a significant and positive part of our region's identity. Living up to their slogan as ''Everybody's Hometown Team'', the Altoona Curve's accomplishments will surely make them a great part of the memories of the three million fans who have cheered for them at the Blair County Ballpark. Next year, the Altoona Curve will open their season on April 12, 2007, to do what they do best—play ball.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE APPRAISAL INSTITUTE ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAY LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice congratulations to the Appraisal Institute on its 75th Anniversary and for its advancement of the real estate appraisal profession. Established in 1932 to bring clarity to the real estate appraisal and valuation process in those turbulent times, the Appraisal Institute, with its national office in Chicago, Illinois, is the largest professional association of real estate appraisers, representing more than 21,000 real estate appraisal practitioners in the United States and abroad.

Serving as an impartial third party in real estate transactions, members of the Appraisal Institute play an important role in maintaining integrity in the real estate market. Their unbiased and professional opinions are used everyday by builders, developers and financiers of commercial, industrial and residential properties. Armed with extensive knowledge and expertise, members of the Appraisal Institute assist federal, state and local governmental agencies that acquire, manage and dispose of real property throughout the country.

Founded on the premise that superior education and adherence to high ethical standards are central to the profession, the Appraisal Institute established professional designation programs to recognize achievement in these areas. Today more than 11,000 members of the Appraisal Institute hold its prestigious MAI, SRA and SRPA designations. They have demonstrated their knowledge, skill and ethical performance through a stringent program of examinations and work product review. Through its education, publishing and membership designation programs, the Appraisal Institute positions its members as the preferred choice for real estate solutions.

The Appraisal Institute has a long history of supporting initiatives consistent with the public good that promote the use of competent appraisers, including the licensing and certification of appraisers. The organization was instrumental in the development of national uniform appraisal standards recognized by Congress in 1989. The Appraisal Institute continues to advocate for important public policy issues affecting consumers and homebuyers, including laws that would strengthen oversight and enforcement mechanisms designed to prevent mortgage fraud.

The Appraisal Institute supports equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in the appraisal profession and is committed to promoting diversity within its membership and throughout the real estate profession. Through scholarships, training and advocacy the Appraisal Institute's diversity program seeks to enhance opportunities for minorities, women and those individuals new to the profession.

For 75 years the Appraisal Institute has been a beacon of integrity for the real estate appraisal profession and for those it serves. In recognition of its theme for 2007, Celebrating Our Past, Valuing the Future, I congratulate the Appraisal Institute and its members for their years of service, and I wish them continued success in their mission.

RECOGNIZING M. HOLLIS CURL ON A LIFETIME ON ACHIEVEMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and a great Alabamian, M. Hollis Curl, in recognition of his lifetime of achievement and service to the profession of journalism and the people of Alabama.

Hollis, a native of Red Bay, Alabama, is the long-time editor and publisher of The Wilcox Progressive Era in my hometown of Camden, Alabama.

He began his career in—as he calls it—''newspapering,'' by selling copies of The Red Bay News from his shoeshine stand outside the hotel in Red Bay.

During World War II, his family moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, which did not have a newspaper at the time. However, Hollis was able to get a paper route carrying the Knoxville News Sentinel. He has often recounted the day the WWII ended, and his customers crowded around his ''drop spot'' so they could get their papers without waiting for him to walk his route to their house.

It was also in Tennessee that a young Hollis Curl began his career in journalism. He started his own neighborhood publication—in the form of a single sheet—which he sold for five cents a copy.

In the late 1940s, Oak Ridge began its own newspaper, and Hollis became one of the first with a paper route for The Oak Ridger. As he became older, he was given various jobs at the paper, but in 1949, Hollis took a break from ''newspapering'' to serve as a congressional page for the late Congressman Albert Gore, D-Tennessee.

Hollis attended Ole Miss and while there, he worked at the student newspaper. Following college, he returned to The Oak Ridger, and in 1958, he became the advertising manager for the Clinton Courier-News in Clinton, Tennessee.

He returned to Alabama in 1960 to work in the advertising department at The Dothan Eagle. From there, he moved to Butler, where he served as publisher for The Choctaw Advocate and quickly began winning awards from the Alabama Press Association (APA) in various categories. He purchased The Choctaw Advocate in 1968, and later, he and John Jones purchased The Demopolis Times.

In 1969, he and his wife, Glenda, bought The Wilcox Progressive Era in Camden, which is where they reside to this day. Hollis and Glenda recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Throughout the years, Hollis Curl has owned newspapers in Butler, Demopolis, Montevallo and Marion, but today his sole paper is the award-winning Progressive Era.

Of particular significance, Hollis gained national recognition in 1997 when he was selected by Sigma Delta Chi as recipient of the Ethics in Journalism Award. He was the first weekly newspaper editor to receive the award presented at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. In addition, the Alabama Press Association awarded Hollis with their first Lifetime Achievement Award—in addition to awarding him virtually every other award APA gives.

He has also won the Troy State University's Hector Award four times and served from 1975–1976 as the Hall School of Journalism's Grover C. Hall Fellow and Editor-in-Residence teaching editorial writing and press law.

Mr. Speaker, Hollis Curl is a very special person to many of us throughout the State of Alabama, and I rise today to honor and publicly thank him for his many years of service, loyalty, and dedication to the people of Camden and Wilcox County.

As a young boy growing up in Camden, I spent many an afternoon after school in ''Mr. Hollis's'' house. At the time, I was hoping my elementary school crush on his daughter, Julie, might lead to our being family one day. Such was not meant to be. Regardless, he was then—and has certainly remained—always interested in the wellbeing of the young people of Wilcox County.

While he has taken more than a few politicians to task on his editorial page and in his award-winning, weekly column, ''For What It's Worth,'' he has always been more than fair to me and to those people in the political arena with whom I have been associated.