balance of $2 million. She totally renovated classrooms to include state-of-the-art equipment and built a new bilevel parking deck for university students and visitors.

Her contributions extended, however, to more than balancing budgets and improving campus facilities. She authored the case statement for Alabama higher education for the 2000 legislative session, she led Troy's development of a new institutional strategic plan, and activated two compressed master's programs—master of science in management and master of science in public administration, and began a civil rights concentration and technical writing program.

Dr. Martindale also oversaw completion and dedication of the landmark Rosa Parks Library and Museum in downtown Montgomery, which has hosted more than 70,000 visitors since December 1, 2000, and was named Alabama Event of the Year in 2001 by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel.

An extremely active member of the Montgomery and Alabama educational, business and civic communities. Dr. Martindale has been a tremendous asset to the advancement of Troy University. I join her colleagues and many friends in wishing Dr. Martindale and her family all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ASHLEY A. FOARD

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ashley A. Foard, a dedicated and faithful public servant who devoted his life to Idaho and his country. Mr. Foard passed away last week at the age of 97.

Ashley A. Foard was committed to serving the people of the United States. After earning his law degree from the University of Chicago, Mr. Foard began his 37-year-long career with the Federal Government. During his years of exemplary civil service, he served as a law clerk for the Public Works Administration, the National Housing Agency, and the Housing and Home Finance Agency. Mr. Foard later served as Acting General Counsel for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, where his efforts helped shape the country's housing and urban development policies.

The extraordinary service that Mr. Foard showed was very apparent to his superiors and peers alike, earning him many awards, such as the Superior Accomplishment Award and the Distinguished Service Award from the Housing and Home Finance Agency. Included in his long list of accomplishments is the role he played in the planning and drafting of President Kennedy's Executive Order 11063, which ended racial discrimination in Federal housing programs and led directly to the elimination of legal segregation in housing throughout the United States. Mr. Foard also assisted the Agency for International Development in the planning and development of national housing programs for numerous foreign countries.

In 1969, Mr. Foard was once again recognized for his service with the Rockefeller Public Service Award from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. At his retirement, Mr. Foard was honored by Members of Congress and members of the President's cabinet. Mr. Foard's service did not end after retirement—he was an active member in the Kiwanis Club and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees, and he produced two books and a number of shorter pieces about his life.

Mr. Foard was described by those around him as ''unassuming and modest to a fault'' and ''quietly devoting himself to the common good.'' He lived a life that mattered to his family, his community, and his country, and I am gratified to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO MS. C. PAMELA HOLLIDAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow native Washingtonian with whom, my staff and I have had the distinct pleasure of working since 1992: Ms. C. Pamela Holliday, Regional Director of the Washington Passport Agency.

Ms. Holliday, ''Pam,'' began her career with the State Department on February 1, 1971 as a GS–3 Passport Processing Clerk. From 1971 until her selection as Regional Director of the Washington Passport Agency in 1992, Pam served as a passport examiner, automated records manager, Consular Officer in Overseas Citizens Services, Fraud Prevention Programs, and at the US Embassy in Belize. The State Department sent her in many different official capacities to Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland.

However, Pam's hallmarks are not the titles and positions she has held, but the efficiency, collegiality, and dedication she brought to her work. As the delegations from Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia know, our constituents expect us to sort out the thorniest of passport problems before their flights leave the next morning. When the going gets especially tough, the tough call Pam.

Madam Speaker, I ask this house to join with me and Pam's friends, associates, and co-workers, who on December 13th will recognize her thirty-five years of extraordinary service to the travelling public as she prepares to retire in January.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, on December 11, 2007, I was visiting with displaced residents and touring flood damaged areas in my district. As a result, I was unable to be present for votes. I take my voting responsibility very seriously. Had I been present, I would have voted the following: rollcall vote 1134—H. Res. 846 (Will the House Now Consider the Resolution): ''yea''; rollcall vote 1135—H.R. 3505 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass): ''yea''; rollcall vote 1136—H. Res. 846 (On Agreeing to the Previous Question): ''yea''; rollcall vote 1137—H. Res. 846 (On Agreeing to the Resolution): ''yea''; rollcall vote 1138—H.R. 4253 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass): ''yea''; rollcall vote 1139—Quorum (Call of the House): ''present''; rollcall vote 140—H.R. 6 (On Agreeing to the Senate Amendments with Amendments): ''yea''; and rollcall vote 1141—H.R. 2085 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass): ''yea.''

TRIBUTE TO KEITH COLLINS, CHIEF ECONOMIST, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Dr. Keith Collins who has served with distinction as the Chief Economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for almost 14 years. At the end of this year Keith will retire, and he will be missed, not only by his colleagues at USDA, but by all of us who came to respect and rely on his non-partisan, thoughtful and detailed analysis of economic issues in agriculture.

Keith began his career as an economist with USDA in 1977, and his tenure there has spanned four presidencies of both political parties. He has served under nine Secretaries of Agriculture.

In 1994, Keith was named Chief Economist at USDA, and in that capacity he has been responsible for economic forecasts and projections and has advised the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic implications of alternative programs, regulations and legislative proposals. His advice has not been limited to the Secretary either—he has become a valued advisor to Members of Congress and others involved in agriculture policy.

On highly charged political issues, Keith is known for his honesty, competency, and influence. Even when facing tough questions from Members of Congress, nothing seems to rattle Keith's calm, rational demeanor.

Keith has also earned the respect of his peers in the field of agricultural economics. Keith is a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, which is the highest honor the agricultural economics profession can bestow.

One economist who worked with Keith over the years measured the potential success for newly appointed Secretaries of Agriculture using what he called the ''Keith Collins intelligence test.'' If the new Secretaries reappointed Keith as Chief Economist, they passed.

Keith's colleagues at USDA have also recognized his outstanding contributions. He received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 1990 and 1996 and the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executive in 1992, the highest award a Federal executive can receive.

Madam Speaker, Keith's retirement is a real loss for American agriculture. Through his service at USDA, he has influenced agriculture policy in many positive and lasting ways. His work truly has touched the lives of many Americans, especially our Nation's farmers and ranchers.