

issuer had closed both due to “low activity in the past six months.” “I was shocked,” he says. “They lost my trust, totally.” (American Express declined to comment on Good’s or any other individual’s accounts.)

New Yorker Veronica Eady Famira was vacationing in Germany when she discovered that her \$1,500-limit Delta SkyMiles card from American Express had been shut down. “I must have spent \$300 in cellphone charges calling banks,” she says. “I was pretty stranded.” Adding insult to injury, Famira had just earned a free companion ticket on the card valued at up to \$400 for a domestic flight—now she can’t redeem the ticket.

**CONGRATULATING EUGENIA ARMBRECHT FOR BEING NAMED FIRST LADY OF MOBILE**

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 2, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mrs. Eugenia Armbrecht on the occasion of her being named First Lady of Mobile. The Mobile chapters of Beta Sigma Phi, an international women’s network with over 165,000 members, recently bestowed this honor on her.

Known to her many friends as “Gigi,” she is a tireless volunteer and has devoted her entire life to improving the lives of countless people who call Mobile and south Alabama home.

Gigi moved to Mobile from Galveston, Texas, just in time for her senior year at Murphy High School. Following graduation, she moved to Tuscaloosa where she attended the University of Alabama and received a bachelor’s degree in education. She met her future husband, Conrad Armbrecht, in Tuscaloosa, and after graduation, they moved to Mobile where she began teaching first grade.

She soon developed an interest in special education and began working on her first master’s degree at the University of South Alabama. Gigi also began giving much of her time as a volunteer for Mobile United, and by 1988, she was a paid employee of the organization. Ten years later, she was recruited to join AT&T, and she now serves as manager of regional and external affairs for the company.

Gigi was also honored this year as a distinguished University of South Alabama alumna and the Junior League of Mobile’s Sustainer of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mrs. Eugenia “Gigi” Armbrecht for being named this year’s First Lady of Mobile; truly, no one is more deserving of this high honor. And in so doing, I would also like to recognize Gigi for her lifetime of outstanding professional and philanthropic accomplishments; she is truly a role model for our entire community.

Furthermore, I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this respected and dedicated friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know Gigi’s family; her husband, Conrad; their two wonderful children, Stewart and Amanda; her granddaughter and her many friends and other family join me in praising Gigi’s accomplishments and extending thanks for her never-ending efforts to make south Alabama a better place to live and call home.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 2, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday, April 1st, I was in my district attending the funeral of my mother Roffie Pascrell, who recently passed away at the age of 95, and I therefore missed the 8 rollcall votes of the day.

Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 175 on the Motion to Table the Resolution—H. Res. 312.

Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 176 On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 85) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014—H. Res. 305.

Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 177 On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1664) to amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation and compensation not based on performance standards—H. Res. 306.

Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 178 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended End Government Reimbursement of Excessive Executive Disbursements (End GREED) Act—H.R. 1575.

Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 179 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree Honoring the lives, and mourning the loss, of Sergeant Mark Dunakin, Sergeant Ervin Romans, Sergeant Daniel Sakai, and Officer John Hege, members of the Oakland Police Department in California who were brutally slain in the line of duty—H. Res. 290.

Had I been present I would have voted “nay” on rollcall vote No. 180 On Agreeing to the Amendment—Bean of Illinois Amendment to H.R. 1664.

Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 181 On Agreeing to the Amendment—Dahlkemper of Pennsylvania Amendment to H.R. 1664.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 182 On Passage To amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation and compensation not based on performance standards—H. Res. 1664.

**SALUTING THE SERVICE OF FRED V. KROEGER**

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 2, 2009*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, this evening, the Southwestern Colorado Water Conservation District will bid farewell to a most

dedicated, knowledgeable and remarkable man who has served on its board for 55 years.

Fred V. Kroeger of Durango, Colorado is a devoted man—to his family, his community and water resources.

Fred was born in 1918 in Durango, Colorado and he lived there all his life. He graduated from Fort Lewis College and he made his home there with his beloved wife Eleanor. Fred and Eleanor raised their children in Durango and operated a business there—Kroeger’s True Value Hardware.

But Fred’s grandfather and father were tied to the rural land and the agricultural economy of the region, and Fred’s commitment to the farmers and ranchers who were his neighbors continued throughout his life. That commitment was evidenced by Fred’s steadfast support for the Animas-La Plata Project, which was to deliver water to the “dry side” so that those farmers and ranchers could thrive with a more reliable and generous water supply. To this day, Fred bemoans the loss of the irrigation features of the project, which is now nearly complete but is limited to municipal and industrial supplies.

Indeed, the first water meeting Fred attended was with the Southwestern District to discuss the Animas-La Plata Project in 1948. In addition to serving on that board, Fred served on the Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District board for 24 years, the Colorado Water Conservation Board for 21 years and has been a member of the Colorado Water Congress for 51 years.

That organization bestowed upon Fred the prestigious Wayne Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award, given in the name of one of my predecessors who chaired the then-House Interior Committee where many of the water projects Fred Kroeger fought for were developed.

Fred was active in his community and its civic and cultural organizations. He always carries a little pocket calendar with him, and it is jammed with meeting commitments to boards, business, family and friends.

At 91, Fred has decided to free up some of those days on the calendar, and so he decided to retire from the Southwestern District board. He richly deserves the recognition he will receive tonight from his colleagues. I offer not only my congratulations to him on his retirement, by a little regret that he will be leaving and a mountain of respect for what he has given to the water resource community.

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF ELIZABETH ANN PITTROFF COPELAND**

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 2, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and, indeed, the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Elizabeth Ann Pittroff Copeland and pay tribute to her memory.

Known to her many friends as Betty, she was a lifelong resident of Mobile. She graduated from The Visitation Monastery and was a lifelong member of St. Pius X Catholic Church. She married her husband of 58 years,

Reggie Copeland Sr., just three days before he was sent to Germany with the U.S. Army in 1950.

Betty's first priority was raising her children and later her grandchildren. She was known for seamstress skills and for being a prolific note-writer. Whenever she saw something in the newspaper about someone she knew, she would clip it out and send it to them with a personal note.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Elizabeth Ann Pittroff Copeland will be dearly missed by her family—her husband, Mobile City Council President Reggie Copeland Sr.; their five children, Reggie Copeland Jr., Randy Copeland and his wife Alison, Gayle Phillips and her husband Lee, Riley Copeland and his wife Penny, and Russ Copeland and his wife Leigh; their 12 grandchildren, Tre' Copeland, Ryder Copeland, Randall Copeland, Anna Copeland, Grace Copeland, Jordan Phillips, Will Phillips, Riley Phillips, Conrad Copeland, Cunningham Copeland, Madison Copeland, and Anderson Copeland; and her sister, Mary Ellen Ham and her husband Victor—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF C.  
RAY BAKER

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**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the service and commitment of C. Ray Baker who has devoted his life to helping make “Life worth living in Fort Smith, Arkansas.”

Ray Baker has been a lifelong champion of Fort Smith. He’s shown his love for the community through serving its citizens for the past 19 years as Mayor.

He shared his enthusiasm for the community with the generations of students he taught over his 46 years as an educator. His legacy is far reaching beyond the halls of Southside High School where he taught for 44 years.

He has received numerous awards and commendations for his years in the classroom including being named Arkansas PTA Teacher of the Year, a Milken Family National Educator, Arkansas Teacher of the Year and Daughters of the American Revolution National American History Teacher of the Year.

Teaching was only one passion, he has dedicated countless hours volunteering for civic service organizations and the energy he brings to ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings and awards ceremonies and special community events is contagious. His dedication to Fort Smith has inspired an award named after him, the “Ray Baker Lifetime Achievement Award.”

Ray is a true American hero. He has had a tremendous impact on me because of the way he lives his life.

His energetic spirit has given us all strength, and we are fortunate to have his leadership and dedication. Fort Smith is a better place because of Ray Baker.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SHIRLEY STRUM KENNY

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**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Stony Brook University President, Shirley Strum Kenny, on the occasion of her being recognized as a Stony Brook University “Star” at the Tenth Annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala. In her numerous roles in the field of education, President Kenny has demonstrated her commitment to the principle that education remains the key to breaking down our own economic barriers and to securing our nation’s standing in the world. I commend President Kenny for her commitment to public education and dedication to the egalitarian notion that a higher education should be affordable and accessible to all. This commitment is in the finest traditions of Stony Brook University and the State University of New York system as a whole.

In 1994, President Kenny began her tenure as the first woman President of the University. Since that time, Stony Brook has experienced a renaissance with expansions in the opportunities it provides across the board: from Division I Athletics to major improvements to the Stony Brook University Medical Center. During her presidency, enrollment has increased from 17,500 to more than 23,000, faculty numbers are up 8 percent, and demand for a Stony Brook University education has increased exponentially. With President Kenny’s leadership, Stony Brook University has undertaken major construction projects, including the Charles B. Wang Center, a Stony Brook Manhattan campus, the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, new buildings for Life Sciences, Humanities, and Engineering, and most recently, the Stony Brook University Southampton campus.

Concerned about our nation’s educational system as a whole, President Kenny has been a leader for national reform. She launched and chaired the Boyer Commission on Educating Undergraduates in the Research University, which produced a report advocating a dynamic model of education that would engage students and inspire them to conduct research consistent with the unique resources of each institution. She has served as Chair of the Association for American Colleges and Universities, and as a board member of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

President Kenny’s impact on countless numbers of students, to whom she has dedicated her life and work, is immeasurable. For her selfless dedication to her students and commitment to advancing education for all, I ask all my colleagues in the House to please join me in honoring President Shirley Strum Kenny.

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HONORING CHARLES W. BETZ

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**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Charles W.

Betz, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland’s Veterans Advisory Council. Charles has been selected to receive this award because of his volunteer service and based on his outstanding dedication to serving the needs of veterans within his community.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is of the utmost importance that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

Mr. BETZ has been a strong advocate for veterans of the Armed Forces through his office as Post Surgeon and Hospital Chairman of the VFW. Not only does he give of his time to prepare and execute visits to the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center, but he and his wife also coordinate activities for the residents. Their group sing-a-longs and Bingo games are always received with much appreciation.

Despite personal health problems, with both knee and shoulder surgeries, Mr. Betz has continued to volunteer at least 30 hours a month.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Charles W. Betz. His compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces has become an inspiration to us all, and is deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Betz on his exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

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**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, along with Representatives KIRK, FRANK, BIGGERT, BALDWIN, ROS-LEHTINEN, NADLER, BONO MACK and POLIS. This legislation will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies and amend federal law to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of violent, bias-motivated crimes. Last Congress, this legislation passed with bipartisan support by a vote of 237–180. Bipartisan majorities have also voted in favor of hate crimes legislation for the last three consecutive Congresses. With a strong statement of Presidential support, the time has finally come for the enactment of this important legislation.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act has attracted the support of nearly 300 civil rights, education, religious, and civic organizations. Importantly, virtually every major law enforcement organization in the country has endorsed the bill—including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Sheriffs Association, the Police Executive Research Forum, and 31 state Attorneys General.

At a time when our nation is celebrating its diversity, bias crimes are disturbingly prevalent