

helped pass a clean water bond issue, and created Cleveland: NOW!

Throughout the years, Silverman and Co. grew and opened branches in Toledo, Columbus, and Charleston, West Virginia. By 1996, the PR firm was the third largest in the region and ranked 40th in the country. Throughout Silverman's career, some of his clients included Blue Cross; Don King; BBC Industries; Mayor George Voinovich; and Democratic Council President George Forbes. After more than 30 years in business, Bill retired and the firm closed in 1997 and 1998 respectively.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Sandy; children, Alexander, Beth Ann, Frances, William, Jeffrey, and Jenny; and sixteen grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Mr. William A. Silverman.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARETHA THURMOND PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Aretha Thurmond. Aretha will participate in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Thurmond, of Opelika, Alabama, qualified for her fourth Olympic team, becoming 16th U.S. woman to do so. Aretha is known as one of the most consistent American throwers over the past decade.

In 2007, she returned to compete only 18 days after giving birth to her son, Devon Theopolis. Thurmond will be participating in the 2012 London Olympics discus throw.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Aretha and best wishes in the Olympics.

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB-LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my continued support for the restrictions placed on oil and gas leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. I am

pleased that H.R. 6082 continues this moratorium and recognizes an area not only critical to the protection of Florida's beautiful beaches and unique environment but to the training of our nation's sailors, Marines and pilots who conduct training exercises there on a regular basis.

As you know, I have been working on the issue of drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico since 1983, when the oil industry proposed drilling off the Gulf Coast of Florida. That year, I offered an amendment to a 1983 supplemental appropriations bill to create the first buffer zone to protect Florida's Gulf Coast from offshore oil drilling. Congress did not implement this buffer zone only to protect the economic or environmental interests of the State of Florida; rather we also recognized the potential conflict that exists between drilling and naval and aviation military activities.

The importance of this area to our military training was affirmed in 2000, when the Department of Defense requested that no above-surface structures be built in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, officially establishing the Military Mission Line within which no drilling can occur. This decision proved timely when the Air Force and Army were forced to end training exercises in Vieques, Puerto Rico and had to find a new site to undertake these specialized training activities. The Eastern Gulf of Mexico was the only site available where this training could continue because this naval and aviation training is incompatible with drilling platforms and drilling ships.

Since the first amendment in 1983, I negotiated with my colleagues to include this moratorium in appropriations bills year after year, until a bipartisan compromise was reached in 2006 that balanced increased domestic energy production with the critical military activities conducted in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. This carefully crafted agreement opened 8.3 million acres south of the Florida Panhandle to drilling, an area previously under a ban, while barring new oil and gas leases off Florida's coastline until June 30, 2022, and codifying the ban on drilling within the Military Mission Line.

Prior to the enactment of the current moratorium, then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated that "in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities, such as missile flights, low-flying drone aircraft, weapons testing and training." By maintaining the drilling ban in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, H.R. 6082 continues to protect an area that holds the U.S. military's largest training and testing area.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to support this measure that will responsibly increase our domestic oil production while maintaining the important protections against drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, in order to ensure that our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROPOSED OFFSHORE DRILLING LEASE SALE PLAN

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss today's vote on the bill to approve

and implement the Obama administration's offshore drilling plan. Holding this vote today was a political stunt by the Republican majority—nothing more. No committees have reviewed the plan, and it was brought to the floor without any consideration.

The Obama Administration's plan would supplant the Bush Administration's plan which is currently in place and I voted for the bill today, not wanting to play political games with our environment. Despite any reservations I have with the details of the Obama Administration's plan, the current administration correctly excluded lease sales in the Atlantic, Pacific or North Aleutian Basin. The Republicans offered an alternative plan that would, without question, cause significant harm to the environment. Voting yes today on this better package was the right thing to do.

Protecting our environment is not a game. Today I voted to move us forward from the terrible environmental policies of the previous administration, and I will continue to advocate and vote for stronger environmental protections.

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM, AL ON WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 2012

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the visit by First Lady Michelle Obama to Camp Noah at the McAlpine Recreation Center in Birmingham, Alabama on Wednesday July 18, 2012.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to my dear friend and our First Lady, Michelle Obama, who traveled a long way last week to honor her commitment to return to Alabama to see our recovery efforts from the devastating tornadoes of April 27, 2011. President Obama and the First Lady visited Alabama two days after the storms to witness first-hand the destruction. They promised federal assistance and that we would not be forgotten. On July 18, 2012, the First Lady held true to her promise to return to Alabama to see our recovery and rebuilding progress.

We will never forget the tremendous losses suffered by the April tornadoes which claimed the lives of 253 Alabamians. Yet out of that devastation, we found hope and showed great resilience in working together to rebuild our communities. The First Lady's visit gave us the opportunity to show our progress as she witnessed the healing spirit of the children affected by the tornadoes.

During her visit to Birmingham, First Lady Michelle Obama surprised a crowd of nearly 100 kids, grades first through sixth, at McAlpine Recreation Center participating in Camp Noah. The summer camp is sponsored by Ascension Lutheran Church in Huntsville, AL and is part of a national project designed to help kids heal from their disaster experience through music, life-skill training and arts and crafts.

The First Lady greeted the children with a smile and words of encouragement. She graciously took the time to hug each and every one of the children. The kids' excitement and joy when the First Lady entered the room was