

service during the war. He continued to be honored after the war for serving his comrades and their memory by editing *Checkerboard*, a World War II newspaper, and facilitating tours of European battlefields.

It has been said that Bill was part of a dying breed in journalism—journalists who didn't write for the good of their career, but for the good of their community. Bill enjoyed success in career and community. Among others, he received awards from Kansas State University, the Kansas House of Representatives, and the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors. In 2004, he was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame. In Marion, Bill gave back while serving as school board president, Kiwanis president, and president of the Marion County Hospital District. Bill became even more connected with his neighbors as an ambulance and bus driver.

Despite his many activities, family came first. Bill was a devoted husband to his wife, Joan, and a proud father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Meyer family. May the strength and courage demonstrated in his years of service help inspire us. We will not only remember Bill the way we saw him through our own eyes, but also by the way we saw the world through his eyes. The world is a better place because of him, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to our friend and colleague, Congressman MIKE OXLEY.

When I was first elected to Congress, I really didn't know MIKE, but I had heard about his prowess on the basketball court and on the golf course. But, one of the things that I have come to appreciate over the years has been the depth of knowledge and experience he has in the business and financial services sector. It is because of this that MIKE has earned the respect of financial leaders in the United States and worldwide.

MIKE is leaving us with a legacy that includes his work on the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley bill to bring more accountability and responsibility to the corporate world. In the weeks following the 9/11 attacks, he led the swift response to target terrorist financing by working to pass a new money laundering statute.

I think it's also important to mention that MIKE's leadership in shaping policy over the years has reached beyond the corporate world. He has also made a significant difference in promoting personal savings and investments at the individual level.

Prior to redistricting, I used to represent two counties that are now in MIKE's district. While I was disappointed to lose Champaign and Logan Counties, it has given us an opportunity to work together on issues important to com-

munities in those counties. We also worked together during the most recent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round on behalf of the Ohio National Guard bases located in Mansfield and Springfield.

MIKE and I have also had some fun over the years. In a previous campaign, he has been kidding me about my campaign radio ads. He says they made him gag because they were a bit too warm and fuzzy for his taste, but I tell him that they worked because he remembered them verbatim.

But seriously, we are going to miss MIKE as a friend and as a leader on business and financial issues. He and his team, including his Chief of Staff Jim Conzelman, and his long-time scheduler, Debbi Deimling, will also be greatly missed.

MIKE, I wish you and your wife, Pat, and Elvis all of the best as you begin this new chapter in your lives. And maybe someday, I will be good enough to play golf with you.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE OTHA LEE BIGGS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of pride—and personal pleasure—that I rise today to honor one of the most outstanding public servants south Alabama has ever known, the Honorable Otha Lee Biggs, on the occasion of his retirement after serving his beloved Monroe County for over three decades.

Mr. Speaker, it was just a few years ago that I stood on the House floor to recognize Judge Biggs for being honored by the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association as the recipient of the Dr. R.F. Henry Outstanding Service Award, the highest award this respected organization can give.

For over three decades, Judge Biggs has been the leading advocate on behalf of the critical river system that runs throughout southwest Alabama and for the continued funding of necessary maintenance and dredging along this important artery of commerce.

Without question—and I would suggest that perhaps without equal—Judge Biggs deserves our eternal gratitude for a lifetime of public service. His dedication to the people of Monroe County is truly legendary.

In 1961, Judge Biggs got his first taste of public service when he served as Clerk of the Monroe County Commission following the death of Mr. L.L. Hendrix, who had served in that capacity for a number of years. He served on the commission for ten years. Even as a young man in high school, Judge Biggs worked in both the County Commission and Probate offices. No one will ever serve Monroe County in the future, in either of these two important positions, who came to the job better trained or more experienced than Judge Biggs.

On January 18, 1971, Judge Biggs took the oath of office as Probate Judge and Chairman of the County Commission for the first of what would turn out to be many consecutive six year terms. Immediately following his election to office in 1970, Judge Biggs, along with

members of the County Commission, secured commitments from several large-scale corporations and businesses to build, relocate, and expand existing facilities in Monroe County, including Alabama River Pulp, FDR Plastics, Stayfast, Inc., Vanity Fair Intimates, and B & B Cabinet Doors, LLC.

At the time—and as a direct result of his tireless work and tremendous leadership as well as the support from everyone else involved in the county's economic development programs—Monroe County led the entire state of Alabama in new job creation.

In addition to Monroe County's economic life, Judge Biggs has also been instrumental in helping the area preserve and promote its strong literary and historic heritage.

As the birthplace and home of such internationally known writers as Nelle Harper Lee, Truman Capote and Mark Childress, Monroe County has been firmly established as the "Literary Capital of Alabama."

For his part, Judge Biggs has done yeoman's work to ensure this reputation extends beyond county and state lines to reach an international audience. Recent publicity has brought a significant increase in the number of tourists to the area.

Judge Biggs was also instrumental in the creation of annual performances of the stage adaptation of Miss Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. His work on behalf of the county museum and theater troupe has resulted in the production securing permission to perform on stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and at festivals in Great Britain and Israel, as well as a host of other U.S. cities.

Mr. Speaker, to list all of Judge Biggs' many accomplishments would take literally an entire volume of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD unto itself. That said, no list of "accomplishments" would be complete without mentioning three key projects for which Judge Biggs deserves special commendation.

First, he has played a lead role in developing the Monroe County Airport into a 6,000 foot runway which gives it the capability of landing almost any size corporate jet. More recently, he has advocated working with the FAA in formulating a long-range plan for airport growth and development.

Second, Judge Biggs deserves considerable recognition for his efforts at saving the Old Monroe County Courthouse. Working with a committee established in the late 1980s, Judge Biggs oversaw the efforts to obtain state, federal, and private funds to restore this Alabama landmark to its new-found glory and home to a permanent exhibit of celebrated Monroe County authors.

And third, no one in southwest Alabama has been more persistent—or more deserving of credit—for the four-laning of US. Highway 84 from 1-65 westward to the Mississippi line than Judge Biggs. While Senator SESSIONS and I, along with Governor Bob Riley, have been pleased to play a small role in getting the initial funding to begin this massive project, the person who has worked over the past several decades to keep this a regional and state priority is none other than Judge Biggs.

Judge Biggs served for many years on the board of trustees for the University of South Alabama and fought tirelessly for the interests of thousands of students, faculty members, and staff who have been involved in the life of that institution since its founding in the early