

father, Theodore N. Lerner, more than 50 years ago. In 2006, along with his father and brothers-in-law, Mark became a principal owner of Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals, in large part because of a "family model" of ownership lauded by Major League Baseball as the ideal way to ensure continuity and growth, both for the team and for the greater Washington community. Mark believes in a vision of athletics as a catalyst for civic renewal and that vision extends to his many other professional business interests.

Mark's dedication to community service is illustrated by his impressive record of volunteerism and philanthropy, whether serving as a valued board member or participating in the daily life of institutions fighting for the causes he champions. As Vice President of The Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Foundation, he provides generous support to Jewish organizations in the fields of higher education, community-building, religious life, and tolerance. Pairing his investment in strengthening Jewish communal life with his passion for athletics, he has co-chaired the JCC Maccabi Games of Greater Washington and continues to seek out opportunities to foster community through sport.

Mark Lerner has displayed an unwavering commitment to the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School throughout his years of involvement as a parent, alumni parent, and steadfast supporter. He chaired the Building Committee of Operation Excellence, the CESJDS campaign for the construction of the state-of-the-art Lower and Upper School campuses. Until recently, he also was a member of the Board of Directors and chaired the Building and Grounds Committee. His expertise in the area of real estate management has guided the school's expansion and ensured that its students are equipped to thrive in a space that nourishes their love of learning.

CESJDS honors a distinguished member of our community every year with the "Chadesh Yameinu" Award. With a name drawn from a Hebrew prayer that refers to "renewing our days," the Chadesh Yameinu Award expresses the school's appreciation for the recipient's contribution to the institution's continued vitality and, by extension, to the promise of a bright Jewish tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mark D. Lerner, whose commitment to Jewish education and his leadership in community service and philanthropy serve as a shining example to future generations.

#### HONORING BENTON COWLES

### HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Benton Cowles, a remarkable public servant and friend from my home State of Kentucky. Mr. Cowles recently announced his intention to retire as the Edmonson County Property Valuation Administrator after 21 years of service.

Benton Cowles has served the Edmonson County community for the past three decades; first as Deputy PVA and then as PVA, a position he has held for the past 21 years. Mr.

Cowles' father had also held this important role in the local government.

Benton Cowles and his wife Teresa raised their family in Brownsville and have remained deeply invested in the Edmonson County Community. Outside his role in the local government, Mr. Cowles has spent time as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Brownsville Education Site based decision making council, and has volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America. He has also served as a damage coordinator for the Edmonson County Department of Emergency Management.

On behalf of the countless men and women who have benefited from his skill and generosity, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Mr. Cowles for his years of service and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

It is my privilege to recognize Mr. Benton Cowles today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his exemplary citizenship and community leadership. His unique contributions to the Edmonson County community make him an outstanding American, worthy of our collective honor and respect.

#### SHAREHOLDER VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2007*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, which ensures that shareholders have a say in corporate executive compensation plans and golden parachute packages for executives who are negotiating the purchase or sale of the company.

For too long, executive compensation has been determined behind closed boardroom doors. The results have been that executives' pay has skyrocketed to the point of absurdity.

In 1991, the average large-company CEO received roughly 140 times the pay of an average worker. In 2003, the ratio was up to 500 to 1. It takes CEOs of the Nation's top companies the first two hours of the first workday of the new year to make \$10,712. It takes a minimum wage worker 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year to make the same. According to a report by Americans United for Change, those CEOs make \$5,279 an hour, \$10,982,000 a year, or 1,025 times more than their minimum wage employees.

These numbers are even more stunning when one considers that those salaries are not based on performance. As hearings held by Chairman FRANK have shown, even executives of companies that lose money, restate earnings, and face extensive regulatory scrutiny have received substantial compensation packages.

The Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act would help hold board members accountable when setting executive pay by allowing shareholders to vote on whether they approve of the compensation packages or not. It would also give shareholders the right to vote on golden parachute packages that executives may negotiate for themselves when

arranging the purchase or sale of the company.

Although these votes are non-binding, shareholders' voices will be heard. Executives and boards of directors will have to give weight to the shareholders' opinions when deciding on what the gold-plated packages of executives will look like. And, it will let executives know they are being watched when negotiating the selling price of a company while simultaneously negotiating an additional personal exit package.

A similar shareholder vote has been in practice in the United Kingdom since 2003 and is now used in Australia as well. The policy is credited with improving management/shareholder dialogue on executive compensation matters and increasing the use of long-term performance targets in incentive compensation. It was recently adopted voluntarily by Aflac, and according to Institutional Shareholder Services, is currently pending before 52 companies. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1257 and make it the norm for all U.S. companies.

#### CONGRATULATING THE EMPLOYEES OF HOLCIM IN THEODORE, ALABAMA ON RECEIVING THE 2006 COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATES AWARD FOR CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Holcim cement plant in Theodore, Alabama, for winning the Council of State Governments (CSG) Associates award for outstanding corporate citizenship.

The CSG Associates award recognizes those who have shown great dedication in service to their communities. The nominations for the award are submitted by state officials from across the country, and the CSG leadership then chooses a winner. The 156 employees of the Holcim Theodore plant were honored with this prestigious award for their service to the Theodore community—and surrounding areas—in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

There are two specific efforts of the employees of the Theodore plant that were highlighted by the award. First, Holcim played a key role in rebuilding the Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic. This clinic, serving mostly the less fortunate, was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and then, only days before its reopening, was ravaged by a fire. With the help of other local industries, Holcim led fundraising efforts to rebuild the clinic, contributing \$50,000 of the \$120,000 raised.

Holcim also sponsored two students from Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta as temporary summer staff at the clinic.

Second, the CSG Associates recognized Holcim for its efforts towards rebuilding new homes in Theodore for those who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Joining with Habitat for Humanity, Holcim donated concrete for 11 new homes, while Holcim employees volunteered their time and effort to build the new homes.

Holcim's honors, however, do not stop with the CSG Associates award. They have received honors not only at the local level but