

HONORING THE MEMORY OF REO  
KIRKLAND JR.

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Brewton and the state of Alabama lost a dear friend last week, and I rise today to honor Reo Kirkland Jr. and pay tribute to his memory.

A native and life-long resident of Brewton, Reo graduated from T.R. Miller High School and earned his bachelor's degree at Auburn University. He completed his education by earning his law degree from Jones School of Law.

Reo went on to serve as assistant district attorney and founded the firm, Reo Kirkland Attorney at Law. He also served two terms as an Alabama state senator and was the long-time chairman of the Escambia County Democratic Executive Committee.

An avid outdoorsman, Reo was a certified hunting guide in Maine and a delegator for the Alabama Wildlife Commission.

The Brewton Standard remembered Reo Kirkland as one of the "last great Southern lawyers." History, perhaps, will most remember Reo as the delegate who nominated his mother for president during Alabama's roll call vote at the 1984 Democratic National Convention. Friends and colleagues remembered him as a passionate prosecutor, and District Attorney Steve Billy said Reo was "one of the finest prosecutors in the state."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Reo Kirkland Jr. will be dearly missed by his family—his son, Reo Kirkland III; his brother, Karl Kirkland; and his sister, Jean—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

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

**NATIONAL CAPITAL SECURITY  
AND SAFETY ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6842) to require the District of Columbia to revise its laws regarding the use and possession of firearms as necessary to comply with the requirements of the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, in a manner that protects the security interests of the Federal government and the people who work in, reside in, or visit the District of Columbia and does not undermine the efforts of law enforcement, homeland security, and military officials to protect the Nation's capital from crime and terrorism.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in full support of the recent passage of the amended version of H.R. 6842, the National Capitol Security and Safety Act. This legislation will finally bring the District of Columbia into compliance with the Second Amendment rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

On June 26, 2008, the United States Supreme Court correctly struck down a 32-year-

old ban on handgun possession and ownership in the District of Columbia in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. This handgun ban required that all firearms within the city boundaries be registered, all owners be licensed, and prohibited the registration of handguns after September 24, 1976, making it one of the strictest in the country.

The District Council responded to the *Heller* decision with a temporary, emergency law that made some advances in returning gun rights to District residents but, unfortunately, retained a number of discriminatory obstacles to handgun possession. H.R. 6842, as amended, will revise the District of Columbia code to remove these unnecessary and unconstitutional hurdles to gun ownership. Among other things, the legislation will amend the registration requirements so that they do not apply to handguns, remove arbitrary limits on ammunition and repeal some criminal penalties for carrying unlicensed handguns. In total, H.R. 6842 will allow residents of the District to finally exercise their right to bear arms in a responsible manner, without unnecessary government regulation.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have consistently co-sponsored legislation to end the DC handgun ban and to expand and preserve Second Amendment rights within the District. While I certainly appreciate the desire to consider rates of violent crime when crafting gun control legislation, our country is based on the premise that enforcement of our fundamental rights cannot be haphazard. Those rights, especially those clearly enumerated in the Bill of Rights, must not be dismissed or diluted.

As a hunter and lifelong gun rights advocate, I applaud the passage of the amended version of H.R. 6842 and I look forward to Senate action on this measure.

**GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE  
RIVER BASIN WATER RE-  
SOURCE COMPACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S.J. Resolution 45, which expresses the consent and approval of Congress to an inter-state compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin.

The Great Lakes are among America's most valued natural resources, containing over 90 percent of our fresh surface water. Effective management of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin is crucial to protect against harmful diversion of water that causes environmental damage and depletion of the lakes.

I do not believe this bill has undergone a thorough, rigorous vetting process to ensure that its provisions provide strong enough protections against privatization, commercialization, and exportation of Great Lakes water. While that this legislation does take important steps toward ensuring protection of the lakes, I have several unanswered concerns with the bill as it stands now.

Any bill seeking to protect the Great Lakes from diversion efforts must have strong language protecting against the commercialization and diversion of Great Lakes water in the international trade system. I am deeply con-

cerned that this bill defines Great Lakes water as a "product," potentially subjecting it to international trade law obligations under NAFTA, GATT, or the WTO. Furthermore, by exempting diversions of water in containers smaller than 5.7 gallons, how does this bill protect Great Lakes water from privatization claims from bottled water companies and other large commercial entities? The International Joint Commission, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Trade Representative have failed to provide answers to these questions.

I also believe strongly that any Great Lakes Compact must ensure full, active participation of the Tribes in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin in any decision-making process. Language in this legislation requires "reasonable notice" to Tribes for commentary and an obligation to "inform" the Tribes of meetings and hearings regarding diversion of water. The intention of this language is right, but it must be stronger to ensure Tribes have a strong voice in any decisions related to the Great Lakes Basin.

The Great Lakes Compact is a critical piece of legislation, concerning one of America's most precious natural resources. We must hold it to the highest standards to ensure that the environmental and economic integrity of the lakes are protected in a manner that is inclusive of all stakeholders. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation until these concerns have been resolved.

**REVEREND EARL ABEL POST  
OFFICE BUILDING**

SPEECH OF

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my friend and colleague the late Reverend Earl Abel of Kansas City, MO. In life, Reverend Earl Abel labored tirelessly for nearly 50 years as a minister, a community leader and mentor to countless members of the Kansas City community. When Reverend Abel founded the Palestine Missionary Baptist Church of Jesus Christ he only had 11 members. Today, his church has grown into one of the larger ministries in the Kansas City community. Under his leadership the church has built two senior citizens residences, a Senior Activity Center and a church camp for both youths and adults in the larger Kansas City community.

The Kansas City community was so central to Rev. Abel's heart, that in addition to the good works his church was engaged in. He personally took on many other important roles to serve the community that he loved including Chaplain for the Kansas City Police Department, President of the Baptist Ministers Union, and member of the Kansas City Council on Crime Prevention. In 1999, he was appointed to the Appellate Judicial Commission by Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan. Rev. Abel spent his life building good will and love and now it is my privilege to ask for your help to honor this man by naming a post office in the heart of Kansas City in his name.