

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
RAY LAHOOD ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Congressman RAY LAHOOD for his service to the people of Illinois and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman LAHOOD has represented the 18th Congressional District of the state of Illinois for 14 years.

RAY was elected to Congress in 1993 after having served as chief of staff to his predecessor, Republican Leader Bob Michel of Illinois. A native of Peoria, Illinois, RAY worked his way through school and taught in Catholic schools for six years. Following his service in the classroom, RAY became a staffer for Congressman Tom Ralisback. He was then elected to the Illinois State House of Representatives in 1982 where he served until joining Congressman Michel's staff.

A master of parliamentary procedure, RAY quickly developed a reputation for bipartisanship and civility. He was the Member his leadership would often tap to preside in the chamber during contentious floor proceedings, including the impeachment proceedings of former President Bill Clinton. A member of the Appropriations Committee, RAY serves on both the Agriculture and Legislative Branch Subcommittees and as the top-ranking Republican on the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel.

Throughout his career, RAY has received numerous awards, including three honorary doctorate degrees in political science, humane letters, and public service. In 2001, RAY was named the Ray A. Neumann Tri-County Citizen of the Year by the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Peoria, and in 1999, he received Peoria Notre Dame High School's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

A hallmark of RAY's term in office has been his support for farmers in his Illinois district. As a member of the Agriculture Subcommittee, RAY has been a tireless supporter of Illinois ethanol production. The Illinois Farm Bureau recognized his leadership on agriculture issues by awarding him their highest honor in 2005, the Charles B. Shuman Distinguished Service Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family—his wife, Kathy; their four children; Darin, Amy, Sam and Sara; and his seven grandchildren, Ella, McKay, Henry, Luke, Oliver, Theodore, and Brogan—as well as his many friends and colleagues join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the state of Illinois and the United States of America.

RAY will surely enjoy the well-deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE  
DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH  
PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY  
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, the legislation we are voting on today, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, can be appropriately characterized as civil rights legislation. Our country has made a great deal of progress in ending discrimination over the last half century, but a person's medical condition is still the basis for discrimination. Nowhere has this fact been more evident than with respect to mental illness and the stigma that has been attached to it.

Until a generation ago, parents were accused of causing their children's mental illnesses. In passing the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, America is taking a giant step to remove the stigma surrounding mental illness, and how proud I am that my constituent, David Wellstone, has taken up his late father's effort to make this bill, which I'm a cosponsor of, a reality.

This bill permanently reauthorizes and expands the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 to provide for equity in the coverage of mental health and substance use disorders when compared to medical and surgical disorders. The legislation ensures that group health plans cannot charge higher copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles nor can they impose higher maximum out-of-pocket limits on mental health and addiction care than for medical and surgical benefits. While the bill does not mandate group health plans to provide mental health coverage, it does require parity if they do.

This is landmark legislation. It is fair and it is sensible. And it stands as a tribute to the families and patients who for decades have advocated for its passage. With true parity for mental health benefits, the door that was locked by stigma is once and for all open to coverage for more Americans, recognizing their worth and dignity.

How proud I am to have been part of the long fight which has brought us to this day!

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONOR-  
ABLE TERRY EVERETT ON  
THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CON-  
GRESS

SPEECH OF

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Congressman TERRY EVERETT, for his extraordinary service to the people of Alabama and the United States House of Representatives. TERRY EVERETT has represented the 2nd Congressional District of the state of Alabama with distinction and honor for the past 16 years.

Born in Dothan and raised in Midland City, TERRY joined the U.S. Air Force following high school. He learned Russian and served as an intelligence analyst in Europe. After his military service, TERRY returned to Dothan and entered the field of journalism. He worked as a sports reporter and covered the police beat for the Dothan Eagle. In his nearly 30 years in the newspaper business, TERRY wore many hats—from reporter, to editor and publisher, to eventual owner of five small papers in southwest Alabama.

TERRY sold his newspapers in the late 1980s and used the profits to start his own construction business, a business which also found great success. When Congressman Bill Dickinson announced his retirement in 1992 after 28 years of service, TERRY, due in large part to his love for country, chose to run for Congress.

Using the slogan, "Send a message not a politician!" the people of Alabama's 2nd Congressional District elected TERRY to Congress. He has been their voice in this body for eight terms and become one of the most respected congressmen on Capitol Hill.

TERRY is perhaps best known as an ardent supporter of military modernization initiatives as well as his work to protect America's space-based technology. As the first chairman, and current ranking member, of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, TERRY has worked tirelessly to bring major defense industry to Alabama. This post has also enabled TERRY to watch over the needs at Montgomery's Maxwell-Gunter Air Force base, home of Air University, and Fort Rucker, home of the Army's Aviation Warfighting Center. TERRY has also led the debate on protecting our nation's valuable space assets—assets on which our national defense depends.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture remains Alabama's number one industry, and TERRY, a former peanut farmer, has been a champion for farmers. As the second-ranking Republican on the House Agriculture Committee, TERRY has sponsored a vast array of agricultural programs and legislation that has helped ensure the stability of Alabama farmers.

Following the September 11th terrorists attacks on our nation, the central front in the war against terrorism became our ability to accurately gather, process, and understand intelligence. After careful consideration of many other qualified individuals, House Speaker Dennis J. Hastert appointed TERRY to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in January 2002. Accurately describing his work in this capacity, TERRY was once quoted as saying "some of the most important work I've done I can't talk about because it was on the Intelligence Committee."

TERRY has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career. While a local newspaper publisher, the Association of the U.S. Army at Fort Rucker twice nominated him for "Army Civilian of the Year." TERRY served as president and chairman of the board of the Alabama Press Association and chairman of the board of directors of the former Dothan Federal Savings Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family—his wife, Barbara—as well as his many friends