

HONORING DR. SUSAN REES, RECIPIENT OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 2010 CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is a real pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of Dr. Susan Ivester Rees, who was recently recognized for her efforts to protect our Gulf Coast from the devastating impact of future hurricanes.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina—a storm which dealt an unprecedented amount of destruction and loss of life to the Gulf Coast—Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to undertake comprehensive planning to help strengthen the region's ability to withstand the assault of future natural disasters.

One of the studies authorized by Congress was the Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program (MsCIP), undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers' Mobile District.

Dr. Susan Rees' leadership and active involvement in the project as Program Manager—working with coastal residents and marshalling the best ideas from across government agencies—was instrumental in shaping the final plan which won her praise from the Corps of Engineers, as well as other Federal, State and local leaders for its comprehensive nature.

Dr. Rees' extensive public involvement was pivotal in the formation—and approval—of 15 major construction projects, including the opening of canals to improve water flow, beach reconstruction, and rebuilding the Bay St. Louis seawall.

In recognition of her tremendous efforts and considerable leadership in the Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program, Dr. Rees was presented with the Lt. Gen. John W. Morris 2010 Civilian of the Year Award at the 2010 USACE Summer Leaders Conference in Seattle, Washington on August 2, 2010.

Dr. Rees is also a member of the scientific advisory board of the Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies at the University of South Alabama; a member of the executive committee of the Mobile Bay Estuary Program; and a member of the advisory council for the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.

I wish to congratulate Dr. Rees—as well as her husband, Fred, who, himself, has dedicated many years in government service, for their exemplary efforts to protect and enhance the quality of life along America's Gulf Coast. Susan is to be commended for her dedication to preserving our environment and making our coastal communities safer.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in wishing Dr. Rees much success in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EL PASO SERVICE CHALLENGE

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize those students in my district who

participated in the El Paso Service Challenge. The response was inspiring and impressive. Students performed various forms of community service ranging from painting their schools to volunteering at local police and firefighter stations. I initiated the El Paso Service Challenge this year as a way to encourage middle and high school students to give back to our community during the month of September in remembrance of 9/11. The idea for the El Paso Service Challenge arose from President Obama's call to service after the passage of the "Service America Act."

The Edward M. Kennedy "Serve America Act" is the most sweeping expansion of national service in a generation. Signed by President Obama on April 21, 2009, it established a nationwide "Call to Service Campaign" and designated September 11 as the National Day of Service and Remembrance. The swift bipartisan passage of the legislation reflected a national consensus that service is a powerful response to the economic and social challenges facing America today.

In addition to these students, I would also like to congratulate the members of the El Paso Senior Campaign Program at Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe for their volunteer work. La Fe has operated El Paso's Senior Campaign Program branch since 1988. More than 80 El Paso seniors are currently signed up to volunteer their time and energy to help seniors much like themselves by providing caring home visits and companionship. These seniors were honored last week for performing 73,000 hours of service in 2009, serving as a great example of a lifelong commitment to helping others.

According to the Corporation for National & Community Service, since the "Serve America Act" was passed in 2009, volunteering has increased, momentum is strong, and a new vision for service is taking effect. This is certainly true in my district as evident from both the students who participated in the El Paso Service Challenge and the seniors who participated in the Senior Campaign Program at Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe. Indeed across our nation, Americans have joined with friends and neighbors to replenish food banks, provide health services, support veterans and military families, restore public lands, and more.

At a time of great need, Americans are answering President Obama's call to serve.

Giving back to the community is an important lifelong lesson. I am very proud to recognize the volunteering efforts of all of my constituents, and I hope their work will inspire others to do the same.

IRA BRADFORD MILLER, SR.

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Ira Bradford "Brad" Miller, Sr. who passed away on September 4, 2010. He was an outstanding member of the Middle Tennessee community, a leader in the construction industry, and a great friend.

Mr. Miller was a lifelong resident of Rutherford County, where he attended Central High School and received a scholarship to play

football at Middle Tennessee State University. He answered his country's call to serve in the United States Navy during World War II and returned to MTSU to earn his degree after the war ended.

Brad Miller began working as a high school teacher and coach before pursuing his career in the construction industry. He started a water and sewer firm that eventually became Brad Miller Construction Company, Inc. After many successful years of business, Mr. Miller sold his construction company and became president of Tennessee Paving Company, an asphalt paving firm he founded with his brother-in-law.

Mr. Miller served as executive director of the Tennessee Crushed Stone Association until it merged with the Tennessee Asphalt Pavement Association to form The Tennessee Road Builders Association. Mr. Miller was a member and served on the board of directors for all three associations at the same time, and during the merger he acted as the liaison between the three firms. When the associations merged in 1982, he was chosen to be the executive vice president of The Road Builders Association, a position he held until his retirement. Brad transformed The Road Builders into one of the most powerful and respected associations in Tennessee. Later, he was elected chairman of the A-R-T-B-A Council of State Executives.

Brad Miller believed in the importance of having good representation in our Nation's Capitol. Over the course of his career he used his formidable lobbying skills to help influence important legislation. Mr. Miller's success in the construction industry was widely recognized. He received a certificate of special recognition from the National Stone Association, The Tennessee Road Builders Association Lifetime Achievement Award, and the A-R-T-B-A Award, the association's highest honor.

Mr. Miller was married to Betty June Carter Miller for fifty-nine years. The couple met in college and married in 1951. Brad Miller was the proud father of Ira Bradford Miller, Jr., Michael L. Miller, Cindy Miller Smith and Molly Miller Alspaugh. He enjoyed spending time with his children and seven grandchildren.

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Miller's life and accomplishments. We are grateful for the contributions he provided to his community and the people of Tennessee.

LANCE CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER  
BLAKE RODGERS

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, Lance Corporal Christopher Blake Rodgers answered his nation's call of duty by joining the Marines in 2008 after graduating from Spalding County High School; on September 1, 2010 he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country and fellow servicemen abroad. He was killed while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

Lovingly known as Blake to his family and friends, Lance Corporal Rodgers was a man ready to serve his country since the tender