

has equally distinguished himself in public service.

As a law student, he worked for the Southern Poverty Law Center and the late U.S. Senator Howell Heflin. After law school, ARTUR DAVIS compiled a near 100 percent conviction record as a federal prosecutor in the Middle District of Alabama. From 1998 to 2002, he worked as a litigator in private practice.

Congressman DAVIS was first elected to Congress in 2002 and has served four terms representing his west Alabama district which encompasses twelve counties, spanning from Birmingham and Tuscaloosa to the Black Belt.

Congressman DAVIS and I both represent portions of Clarke County and it has been my personal pleasure to work with him and his staff during his 8 years in the House. We were both elected in the same class of 2002 and have labored together to help expand economic opportunity for southwest Alabama. I am particularly grateful for his support of efforts to enhance the Port of Mobile and the Alabama State Docks as well as his valuable assistance in ongoing major economic development projects for our region.

ARTUR made his mark in Washington as an effective legislator who has won national attention for his leadership on a range of issues. He serves as a member of the prestigious Ways and Means Committee, which oversees economic policy. Congressman DAVIS is only the tenth Alabamian in 190 years to serve on this committee, which is the only congressional committee actually described in the Constitution.

He was the chief advocate for legislation to save the HOPE VI program for revitalizing public housing communities. He has also been a strong voice for creative ideas that would expand health care and improve educational performance benefitting rural and urban areas alike.

ARTUR has garnered a variety of honors during his tenure on Capitol Hill, including being selected by Esquire Magazine as one of the 10 best Congressmen in America.

As they prepare to leave Congress, I extend my best wishes to ARTUR and his lovely wife, Tara, and thank them both for their honorable service and leadership for the people of Alabama.

HONORING DEAN HIRSCH

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Dean Hirsch for his distinguished career in serving others around the world. Dean recently retired as the long-time president of World Vision International, capping a 34-year career at the humanitarian organization.

World Vision International is a relief organization that serves tens of millions of people in need, in nearly 100 countries around the globe. World Vision is helping to improve the lives of the world's most impoverished people, with a special focus on children. Under Dean Hirsch's leadership, World Vision has worked to alleviate the suffering of those facing both the long-term challenges of endemic poverty,

famine and disease, as well as acute crises, such as the 2004 tsunami.

Throughout his tenure as President, Dean was instrumental in fostering greater cooperation between World Vision and other leading relief and humanitarian organizations, in order to better serve those in need. I had the opportunity to spend time with Dean at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he offered an important voice on addressing the root challenges of poverty. Dean often said that his mission at World Vision was to "help create a world in which no child suffers or dies for lack of food, clean water, shelter or protection from exploitation or war."

I congratulate Dean on a very distinguished career, thank him for his great humanitarian work, and wish him and his wife Wendy all the best as they begin this new phase of their life together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 8, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 624. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 624: "yes"—To extend the Child Safety Pilot Program.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WESLEY
A. JAMES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of a remarkable civic leader who was recently called from us. The Rev. Wesley A. James never held an elected political office, yet his influence over his beloved Mobile, Alabama surpassed many who have.

A native of Mobile and a 1970 graduate of Central High School, Rev. James continued on to the University of South Alabama where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. In 1979 he graduated from Virginia Union University School of Theology where he received a Master of Divinity Degree. He was also active on campus as president of the student body, director of resident life, and an instructor of freshman orientation.

In 1981 he graduated number one in his class from Southwest Police Academy located at Faulkner State Community College in Bay Minette, Alabama. From 1990 to 1995, he was a fellow at Boston University School of Public Health. And, in 1997 he earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree, with emphasis on community development from Virginia Union University School of Theology.

Rev. James took the helm of Franklin Street Missionary Baptist Church in Mobile in 1988, leading the church's ministry until his untimely passing last month. While his role as pastor and spiritual guide for his flock was central to his life's calling, Rev. James took an equally

active role in his community where he served on a wide variety of boards and coalitions.

He was both past chairman and member of the board of the Mobile Water & Sewer Service. He served on the MWSS for twenty years, overseeing a seventy million dollar budget. He also served three years on The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Board.

Leaning on his law enforcement and pastoral backgrounds, Rev. James was both an active member of the National Board of Directors of the Community Coalition For A Drug Free America and a founding member of the Coalition for A Drug Free Mobile County.

He was also moderator of the Mobile Baptist Sunlight Association where he oversaw programs for 87 Baptist churches in Mobile and Washington Counties.

Rev. James was noted for his unbending devotion to local schools and his ability to reach across the community to bring together different views for the common good.

His love of Mobile and its patchwork of communities no doubt inspired his dedication to serve the people on so many different levels.

Madam Speaker, we all mourn the loss of Rev. James and on behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish to extend my condolences to his wonderful wife, Gwendolyn, their children, Sophia, Wesley, Abron, and their extended personal and church family for their loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 622 and 625, I was absent from the House. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO ISADORE BANKS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to Isadore Banks, a proud World War I veteran, important leader in the community, and someone I am proud to say made east Arkansas his home. In June of 1954, Isadore became the victim of a heinous racially charged murder for which his attackers were never found. I ask all my fellow colleagues to stand with me today to honor the memory of this great man and also to condemn such senseless acts of violence in the history of this Nation.

Although born in Georgia, after serving in World War I, Isadore Banks would come to call Crittenden County, Arkansas, home. As a place where racial tensions ran high at the time, Isadore made a name for himself as one of the most successful farmers in the area.

Isadore was acutely aware of troubles faced by the black community. He used his business savvy to help create a cotton gin business that helped to support other black farmers, and would often buy school supplies for black schools around town that were in need. He is