

his family in the Walker County town of Sipsey. His father had been a coal miner for Debardeleben Coal Company and had decided in 1935 to start his own mine, the beginning of what is now Drummond Company, Inc.

He attended Walker County High School in Jasper where he was co-captain and named to the all-county football team. He also played baseball at Walker and was selected for the East-West All-Star Game in Birmingham.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama in 1965. He also earned a master's degree in accounting the following year before entering the University of Alabama School of Law, where he was awarded the Juris Doctor degree in 1969. During breaks in college, Larry worked in various areas of Drummond Coal operations—preparing a site for mining, drilling at a new mine, cleaning coal for loading, and work at other operations.

Returning home with his law degree in hand, he rejoined his family's company. Over the years, he was heavily involved with domestic and international coal sales. Along with his brothers, Larry was instrumental in fostering business relationships with Japan that continue today. He later assumed additional complex responsibilities as Vice Chairman of the corporation and Chairman of its Executive Committee.

Larry was active in a variety of civic and educational organizations in Walker County and Alabama. He was a member of the Alabama and the American Bar Associations. At the University of Alabama, he was a member of the President's Cabinet and of the Board of Visitors of the Culverhouse School of Commerce. The Culverhouse School recognized him in 2003 with a Career Achievement Award.

He served on the boards of the Walker Area Community Foundation and the Alabama Conservation and Natural Resources Foundation. He also served as a board member for the Alabama Conservation and Natural Resources Foundation and the American Family Business Institute. He was a member of United Way of Central Alabama's Le Societe National. In 2011 Larry was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor and into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Larry also possessed an abiding love for the outdoors and enjoyed working closely with the Boy Scouts of America. He was a director of the Black Warrior Council of the Boy Scouts, which presented him with the Silver Beaver Award.

His leadership of one of Alabama's top energy companies and his stewardship of our environmental resources will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Abbie; brothers, Garry and John; daughter, Terri; sons, Scott and Patrick; five grandchildren, extended family and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

TAKE POLITICS OUT OF POST
OFFICE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to take politics out of the Post Office.

In 2006, Congress passed legislation that forced the United States Postal Service to pre-fund 100 percent of retiree health and insurance premiums. No other company, public or private, is forced to comply with this inherently destructive policy.

On September 30, of this year, the law requires a payment of \$5.6 billion to fund pension obligations. This will do more than cost the USPS precious dollars. It also threatens the very life of the postal service and it will cost hard-working postal employees the dignity and respect that goes along with a hard day's work.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans cited declining physical mail volumes and a growing USPS labor force as the primary reasons why the 2006 legislation was necessary. Yet, 2005, 2006, and 2007 were the highest volume years in the USPS's 200 year history. In fact, 2006 was the highest volume year ever for the USPS. And how did House Republicans expect the Postal Service to deal with the additional 2 million addresses being added to their delivery routes each year? By hoping and praying that the mail gets delivered?

Mr. Speaker, the 2006 legislation was solely intended to break the back of a public sector union and privatize the mailing industry. Why else would Congress alter an entity that hasn't used a dime of tax payer's money in 30 years?

According to the Congressional Research Service, the USPS was self-supporting since 1971, using revenues from postage sales to fund its operating costs. In fact, the Postal Service was so profitable, Mr. Speaker, that it returned money to the Treasury every single year while providing free services to visually impaired persons and overseas voters. If the Postal Service were a private corporation during that time, my colleagues across the aisle would have hailed it as the model of economic success and sung its praises from sea to shining sea for paying dividends to shareholders.

In the years after Republicans dumped the pre-funding mandate into the lap of the USPS, the Postal Service has nearly crumbled under the weight of spiking pension costs. Mr. Speaker, how does an organization that had robust profits for 30 plus years leading up to the 2006 legislation suddenly start running deficits and lose \$25.4 billion between 2007 and 2011? How did the USPS go from no debt in 2006 to over \$13 billion in debt today?

The answer is simple—my friends across the aisle wanted to continue their assault on public sector unions. They chose to pass a bill they knew would cause massive deficits for the USPS. They chose to commit the USPS to payments they knew it could not afford. They created this problem for the USPS and now they refuse to be part of the solution.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans should abide by the phrase "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Many of my colleagues on the other side have well-connected friends, such as the Koch Brothers, who publicly advocate for postal service privatization. I am here to connect the dots for the American people. I repeat, we must "take politics out of the post office."

Instead of wasting time today, we should vote to stop the damage inflicted upon the USPS by this body and remove these absurd constraints by passing H.R. 1351, the United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act. We must pro-

tect the hard working employees of the Postal Service by passing legislation to fix this blunder.

The USPS was not in danger of becoming insolvent until Congress decided to meddle in its affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the Postal Service already missed a \$5.5 billion payment in August. This body must act before the Post Office defaults on another payment later this month. Instead of scheduling symbolic votes that highlight our differences, let's stop the madness and do what is best for the American people, the economy, and communities across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we keep our Postal Service in good financial standing. The Postal Service employs 700,000 of our fellow citizens, 17,751 of whom are in the state of Georgia; one third are military veterans who deliver 212 billion pieces of mail to over 144 million locations.

If big corporations and the Koch Brothers get their wish, the Postal Service will slowly be destroyed, causing good jobs to be lost and allowing companies to raise prices of delivery.

The American people deserve a Postal Service reform bill that will allow the Post Office to continue its operations and not reduce or restructure them.

Taking action to strengthen the Postal Service's finances is not just good for letter carriers and post masters, it is also good for business. There is a \$1.3 trillion mailing industry in the U.S. that supports between 7–8 million private sector jobs that is heavily dependent on a healthy and efficient Postal Service.

The time to act is now.

WELCOMING THE EIGHTH HONOR
FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA TO
WASHINGTON, DC

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Honor Flight South Alabama and the World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing on its eighth flight to Washington, D.C. on September 19, 2012.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from southwest Alabama to see their national memorial.

Almost seven decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly as long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you," yet for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

This Honor Flight begins at dawn when the veterans will gather at historic Fort Whiting in Mobile and travel to Mobile Regional Airport to board a chartered flight to Washington. During their time in their nation's capital, the veterans will visit the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other memorials.