

paying tribute to those who have answered America's call of duty.

I thank Al, the VA, the Beckley VA Center, and all those who have worked to bring this much needed health care access to Mercer County.

This clinic will greatly benefit communities that have a need for health care resources, and it will help ensure all of our veterans and their families have access to the care they need and truly deserve.●

REMEMBERING J. SMITH LANIER II

● Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President. I would like to take a moment to recognize the passing of a great American patriot, J. Smith Lanier II. Smith Lanier was an entrepreneur, business leader, philanthropist, community leader, national leader, and friend.

He was a native of Georgia, attended Auburn University then transferred to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering and a commission into the U.S. Navy.

In 1950, he joined his aunt's insurance agency, Lanier Insurance Agency, based in West Point, GA. His career was interrupted by 2 years of active duty aboard the USS Ault DD698 during the Korean war. When he returned from that service, he purchased the agency under the name J. Smith Lanier & Co. He began with a single office and five employees and grew to have offices throughout Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, and Kentucky. Today the company is one of the oldest and largest insurance brokerage firms in the United States. He served as its chairman and CEO until 1998 and was chairman emeritus until his death.

During his life, he helped launch many other companies including Async, Inc.; SouthernNet; Interface, Inc.; NASDAQ; Valley Realty Company, Inc.; ITC Holding Co., Inc.; Avdata, Inc.; National Vision Associates, Inc.; Cookbook Brands, Inc., now Beverage House; Powertel, Inc., formerly Intercel, Inc. and now TMobile; and ITC DeltaCom, NASDAQ. A remarkably successful entrepreneurial career indeed.

He was a strong advocate for education at all levels, both public and private, founding Springwood School in Lanett, AL and serving on the boards of trustees of several colleges and universities. He was a strong advocate for fair treatment for hospitals in the area, an issue that I worked with him to address.

Mr. Lanier was very close to Auburn University. He served on many boards for the university and in 2010 was presented the Auburn University Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Smith was also active in local, regional and national politics serving the Republican Party in many ways, including being a delegate to two Republican National Conventions. He was al-

ways a strong supporter of policies that he believed served the long term interests of the United States.

Smith Lanier was, in the end, what he prepared to become in the beginning. An Eagle Scout, he credited the Boy Scout Oath and the twelve Boy Scout laws as foundations for his personal and business life.

Mr. Lanier leaves behind his wonderful wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Walker, daughters Mary Ellen (Mrs. Anthony Lee Collins, Sr.) of Lanett, AL, Elizabeth Lanier Lester of West Point, GA, and Edith Carroll (Mrs. Joseph Wiley Hodges, Jr.) of McDonough, GA, eight grandchildren, as well many other family members, friends and colleagues. They have been given a great legacy indeed.

Smith Lanier was a great patriot reflecting the highest and best values of American citizenship, and I am honored to be able to pay tribute to his many contributions to business, education, health, and his community.●

REMEMBERING YETTA GLENN SAMFORD, JR.

● Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I note the passing at age 90 of a truly outstanding American citizen, Yetta Glenn Samford, Jr., a lifelong resident of Opelika, AL. Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller rightly called him an icon. The product of a distinguished Alabama family, he was successful in law and business, all the while giving of himself for his Nation and community.

That such characteristics, such cast of mind and heart, have provided the unique values that have made America great is without doubt. The deeply held concept of neighbor helping neighbor has been the glory of the Republic. A member of the "greatest generation", Yetta Samford served his country and was consistently successful in his undertakings. He flourished in law and business. But, he was focused on giving back. He loved his country, State and community and was a strong believer in education. During World War II, he piloted B-17 bombers being stationed in England in 1944 and 1945—a calling that placed his very life at risk. Returning from the war, grateful for his survival, he declared, "I thank the Lord for letting me come back." Then he married his wonderful lifetime partner, Mary Austill, got his degree at Auburn University and his law degree at the University of Alabama.

From then on success followed him and he lived a life of generosity. How many today will reach his level of service? Are we still producing such people? Perhaps so, but in the same numbers?

Yetta Samford was supportive of a host of positive activities. He was active in many local organizations, donated the land for the Opelika Sportsplex and Aquatics Center, and was a member of the board of deacons for the First Baptist Church of Opelika for 60 years. He served on the prestigious board of trustees of the Univer-

sity of Alabama, serving a 3-year-term as president pro tempore. He was, in addition, a founding trustee for the University of Mobile, a fine Baptist affiliated liberal arts college.

Mr. Samford was respected and loved throughout the Opelika area. He set a high standard for a life well lived. I was honored to have his friendship. Professionally accomplished, a man of high character and generous with his time, talents and resources, Yetta Samford's life reflected the highest qualities of American citizenship. It is fitting that this Senate take note of such a life.

He took great joy in his exceptional wife, Mary Austill Samford, and daughters Mary Austill Samford Lott and Katherine Park Samford Alford, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. They reflect these same qualities and can take solace in the heritage that he has left them.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2431. An act to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2431. An act to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4633. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General William N. Phillips, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4634. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Keith B. Alexander, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4635. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Kenya; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4636. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Canada; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.