

Charlie Rose and I always knew, if we lost an important provision, Senator Heflin would put it back in, or if we could get a new provision, Senator Heflin could keep it in when the bill came to conference.

This year it was particularly true when you can credit Senator Heflin with killing the 5-percent penalty for loan peanuts which would have hurt every peanut farmer in this country.

It was fun to watch: When the debate got heated, if you saw Senator Heflin lean back in this chair, slowly push the plastic back on his cigar and begin to chew, you knew he was thinking and was about to close in for the kill—this year on the Republican Leadership that was seeking to decimate the program.

I know you are not fully happy with the program the way it turned out in the end, but we got one. And the challenge can be summed up with the remark that Senator Richard Lugar was heard to make after the farm bill conference: "In looking at this language, I can see that once again, Senator Howell Heflin has prevailed over those of us who sought to end the peanut program."

Senator Heflin, that is a fitting tribute.

Congratulations, and thank you.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE KIKA DE LA GARZA

● Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable KIKA DE LA GARZA.

There is nobody in the U.S. Congress more deserving of a tribute than the distinguished and longtime chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and defender of rural America and family farms.

KIKA DE LA GARZA began his elected public service with six terms in the Texas House of Representatives and was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964. KIKA was immediately appointed to the Agriculture Committee and has served as the committee chairman since 1981. As a matter of fact, KIKA was the first Hispanic American to head-up a standing committee of the House of Representatives. KIKA DE LA GARZA is very proud of his Hispanic heritage, and with good reason. KIKA can trace his ancestry back to one of the ruling families of Spain and to one of the earliest settlers of Texas. Don Martin de Leon and his wife, Dona de la Garza, petitioned the Spanish Governor in San Antonio for the right to establish a permanent settlement in Texas long before Moses Austin had received permission. KIKA is also proud of his Alabama ancestry, as he often reminds me that he can trace some of his forebears to Etowah County, AL.

During his tenure as committee chairman, KIKA DE LA GARZA has successfully guided the passage of three omnibus farm bills. He is also responsible for a major overhaul of the agricultural lending system, Federal crop insurance reform, reorganization of the USDA, and reforms in pesticide laws. Chairman DE LA GARZA has also brought special attention to rural development and the needs of rural families. He has fought tirelessly for rural development programs such as rural waste and water systems. Through this

strong commitment and leadership on behalf of rural America, his efforts were recognized with the establishment of an empowerment zone in south Texas, one of only three in rural America.

I recall working closely with KIKA DE LA GARZA over the years. We have worked many long hours together to restructure the Farm Credit System and provide disaster assistance when our Nation's producers have suffered from drought and other natural disasters. However, what comes to mind when I think of KIKA DE LA GARZA is his invaluable leadership in defense of the peanut program. It may come as a surprise to some, but the peanut program is vitally important to Alabama and I have personally fought hard to preserve this program. Had it not been for Chairman DE LA GARZA, though, we would not have been able to maintain this program that is also an integral part of Texas agriculture. Many were the occasions that I came to KIKA and I told him that I needed his help and without fail, we were able to hold off efforts to eliminate the peanut program. For this, I am deeply grateful to KIKA.

As KIKA DE LA GARZA leaves Congress and returns to Texas, we are truly witnessing the end of an era. KIKA DE LA GARZA has outlasted Bob Poage, Herman Talmadge and Jamie Whitten to become the dean of American Agriculture. Rural America has had no stronger advocate than KIKA DE LA GARZA, he has indeed been the champion of the small farmer.

When KIKA and his wife, Lucille, return to Texas, they will return home to Mission, Mission, TX, is known for producing famous Texans, among them include Tom Landry and Lloyd Bentsen. However, none have contributed more to improving the lives and living conditions of all Americans. Congress will indeed be a different place next year and it will sorely miss the wisdom and leadership of KIKA DE LA GARZA.

From the beginning, man has been at work in agriculture. In Genesis Chapter 3, Verse 23, Moses writes, "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the Ground from whence he was taken". Although there are tremendous challenges that lie ahead, the Sun shall rise tomorrow, and we can bear fruit for our neighbors and friends and those who are without nourishment. As we strive to feed a growing population, protect our environment, and keep farmers and ranchers strong, I am confident that with God's guidance, those who rely upon him will succeed. We have all been blessed to have had the wisdom and leadership of KIKA DE LA GARZA. As Americans we are all better for his service to this great country. As KIKA and his wife, Lucille return home, as Mike and I are returning home, we wish them both the very best for many years to come. It has been my honor to have served with KIKA DE LA GARZA.●

#### THANKS TO STAFF

● Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, on the last day the Senate was in session, October 4, I stood on the floor and briefly thanked my staff members for all their hard work over the years. At that time, I had a list of their names, hometowns, and date of joining our staff inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I also said that later, I would make additional comments about each of those.

As I said, it is easy to take staff for granted. Much of what they do is carried out in such a way that we might not be aware always of what they are doing. But they put in long hours just like we do. They are dedicated not only to us, but to the States we serve. My staff has helped thousands of Alabamians and other citizens with problems, questions, projects, and other general concerns.

I have been fortunate to have many long-time staff members who have been with me for many years, some since my first year in the Senate. Others have not been here as long, but have still made valuable contributions. Most have come from Alabama or had some connection to the State, such as being an alumnus of a university there, but others have come from the Washington area or other parts of the east coast.

I am proud of my staff, both here in Washington and in the four State offices. They have done an outstanding job for the Senate, for the State of Alabama, and for the Nation and I thank all of them and wish them well as they retire or move on to new career opportunities. I would now like to say a few words about each of those who are still serving with us during these final weeks of my term.

STEVE RABY

Heading up my Washington staff is Steve Raby, my administrative assistant. Over the years, Steve has been a tireless worker and voice for the State of Alabama and the Nation. He has superb judgment and unsurpassable ability to motivate workers under his supervision. He first joined my staff in January 1984 as a legislative assistant focusing on agriculture and rural development policy. In 1987, he became my administrative assistant, responsible for legislative and political matters affecting Alabama. Steve was born in Huntsville, AL, and received his bachelors and masters degrees from Auburn University. I have accused him numerous times of filling my staff with Auburn graduates so he could have more support in the Auburn-Alabama football rivalry. Prior to joining my staff, Steve worked as a research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta analyzing economic indicators of regional economy. Steve is married to the former Denise Cole. They have two sons—Nathan and Keenan. I predict a great future for him in anything he undertakes, including politics.

WINSTON LETT

As ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative

Oversight and the Courts, I have faced a myriad of interesting and challenging issues. Since 1990, Winston Lett has served as Democratic chief counsel and staff director of this prestigious subcommittee and has worked with me on multitudes of legislation. Born in Opelika, AL, Winston graduated from Auburn University and received his law degree from the University of Alabama. It is safe to say that Winston is a favorite son of his hometown: The Opelika and Auburn Chambers of Commerce proclaimed "Winston Lett Day" in 1989. Aside from this distinction, Winston was assistant attorney general in Alabama from 1973 to 1977 before transferring to Washington as administrative assistant to the late Representative Bill Nichols of Alabama until 1988. In 1989, Winston was administrative assistant to Representative GLEN BROWDER before joining my staff a year later. Winston has been a calm, steady voice amid many turbulent judiciary matters and I deeply appreciate his outstanding work. He is an excellent lawyer and has an exceptional ability to get along with people.

DENISE ADDISON

Denise Addison was born here in Washington, the fifth child of Elmer and Louise Meadows. She graduated from Saint Patrick's Academy in 1975 and has been a fixture on Capitol Hill for 21 years now. She has worked for an astounding number of Members of Congress, beginning with Senator John V. Tunney of California. Since then, she has also worked for Congressman Robert N.C. Nix of Pennsylvania; Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois; Senator Robert Kasten of Wisconsin; and Senator Mark Andrews of North Dakota. She came to my office in 1988, and has been an integral part of the success of our correspondence, computer, filing, and office management operations. She married Alvin Addison in 1985, and together they have three children, Alvin, Jr., Dominique, and Jasmine.

SONCERIA ANN BISHOP BERRY

Every office has that one person who knows how to fix, find, and take care of just about anything. In my office, that person is Sonceria Ann Bishop Berry. Ann joined my Tusculum office in April 1979 and moved to Washington the following month as a secretary. She eventually served as assistant office manager before being promoted to office manager in 1992. A native of Birmingham, AL, Ann received her bachelors degree from the University of North Alabama. She is married to Reginald A. Berry and they have one daughter, Elizabeth Ruth. Ann was one of my youngest staff members when she arrived in Washington. I have seen her grow up into a fine young woman. I am proud to have her as a member of my staff. She is one of a kind.

MARY CATHERINE BROOKS

Mary Catherine Brooks, or "Cappie" as she is known, joined my staff in March 1989 as assistant to my administrative assistant, Steve Raby. A native

of Birmingham, AL, Cappie attended the University of Alabama and the Katherine Gibbs School in Boston, MA. During her years of service on my staff, Cappie has tackled many special projects. One of the most notable was the 1994 National Prayer Breakfast honoring President Bill Clinton. As chairman of the Senate Prayer Breakfast, I was responsible for organizing a guest list of several thousand dignitaries from over 100 different countries. I relied heavily on Cappie, who managed the event masterfully. President Clinton and Vice President AL GORE both thanked Cappie personally for her outstanding work. Cappie's next special project is of a more personal nature: Her Spring 1997 wedding to Bill Stiers. She is most attractive as well as efficient.

TIM BROWN

Tim Brown has been my loyal and dedicated traveling companion over the years. He has been with me to each and every county in Alabama at one time or another. He has served as my State director, heading up all four of my Alabama offices, since 1995. Prior to that, he was the field representative responsible for 23 counties based out of Montgomery. He came to my Montgomery office in 1985 after working on my campaign the previous 2 years. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Auburn University in 1971 and his law degree from Jones Law School in 1976. From 1972 to 1983, he worked for his family's business—Brown and Sons, Inc., a trucking and textiles company. Tim is from Enterprise, home of the famous boll weevil statue. His father, the late M.N. "Jug" Brown was mayor of Enterprise for 18 years. He is married to Cathy, an employee of Alabama Power Co. His political instincts are sharp, and he has been my eyes and ears in Alabama. He has been instrumental to the effectiveness of our State operations and no one could have done a better job of keeping me up-to-speed on local and State issues.

BEAU GREENWOOD

Beau Greenwood has been my agriculture legislative assistant since February 1995. As we faced the formidable task of rewriting the farm bill in the 104th Congress, I relied heavily on Beau. He worked with me to ensure that southern agriculture was treated equitably. We faced a tremendous battle with the peanut program, but fortunately were successful in defending this vital program. This long, grueling process came to a successful conclusion thanks in no small part to Beau's efforts. Prior to serving on my staff, he worked for Representative CHARLIE ROSE of North Carolina from 1992 to 1995. A native of Corpus Christi, Beau is the son of Allen Greenwood of Corpus Christi and Sherri Moore Greenwood of Little Rock, AR. Beau attended Texas A&M University and received his undergraduate degree from George Washington University. He studies each issue carefully and is a master of details.

JOYCE D. HACKWORTH

Joyce Hackworth has been with me since the beginning of my Senate career, building on her legacy of working with Democratic Senators from Alabama. Born and raised in Montgomery, AL, she attended Troy State University before going to work for Senator John Sparkman in January 1971. In fact, Joyce moved to Birmingham to open Senator Sparkman's first State office. She remained with him until he retired in 1979. I was elected to Senator Sparkman's seat that year and brought Joyce over to my staff. She has been the office manager in my Birmingham office since January 1979, and says she plans to retire along with me. Her retirement date, effective January 2, 1997, will mark 26 continuous years as a U.S. Senate staffer. Eighteen of those years have been spent on my staff handling everything from casework to the wide range of constituent requests that come into a Senate office on a daily basis. I appreciate her excellent work and colorful personality.

HENDERSON THAD HUGULEY

Thad Huguley, who has been with my Washington staff since 1992, hails from Lanett, AL. While a student at the University of Alabama, he served as vice president of the Student Government Association, was inducted into numerous campus leadership and scholastic honor societies, and worked as a part-time field reporter for the CBS affiliate in Tuscaloosa. He began working for me as a legislative correspondent. As a legislative assistant since late 1993, Thad has been responsible for telecommunications, commerce, environmental, banking, housing, transportation, and labor issues. He seems to have delved into virtually every possible issue area at one time or another. He is a jack-of-all-trades who was always able to master complex issues quickly. He has been a tremendous asset to my office and has been instrumental in helping set and accomplish our legislative agenda. He completed his master of arts in American history at American University in May 1996.

LEA ALDRIDGE HURT

Lea Hurt has been writing media releases, producing television and radio feeds and juggling reporter queries in my press office since July 1991. Before joining my staff, she was a familiar face on my hometown television station, WOWL-15 NBC, in Florence, AL, where she anchored the evening news. After moving to Annapolis in 1990 to be with her new husband Jay, Lea worked as an assignment editor at Sun World Satellite News until I hired her a year later to be my assistant press secretary. Now, as communications director, Lea handles a wide range of issues. A native of Decatur, AL, Lea is the daughter of Linda and Walter Brooks. She attended Calhoun Community College in Decatur, where she was SGA president, before graduating from the University of North Alabama with a

degree in English. Lea and I work together every week to produce my weekly column. I figured recently that we have put out around 280 columns on topics ranging from the balanced budget amendment to constituent services. I have appreciated her hard work, pleasant personality, and dedication. She always presents an attractive appearance. I wish her every future success.

BRENDA JARVIS

Brenda Jarvis knows Montgomery—everything from the city streets to the State legislature. It is her hometown as well as where she now lives with her husband Jake and two children, Heather and Ricki Marie. Brenda joined my staff as a field representative in 1990, working with constituents, State agencies, the State legislature, local governments and chambers of commerce. Prior to that, she served as a member of Governor George Wallace's staff from 1971 to 1979 as an administrative assistant working with legislation, extraditions, the Department of Corrections, the Board of Pardon and Parole, the Department of Public Safety, court matters as well as appointments to boards, agencies and courts. From 1983 to 1987, Governor Wallace appointed her to be assistant director of the State Commission on Aging responsible for the State administration of the Older Americans Act. With her extensive career background, Brenda has been an invaluable help to me in many matters over the years. I have enjoyed working with her.

MARY JANET JOHNSON

Jan Johnson was one of the original "Howell's Angels" in my 1978 campaign for U.S. Senate. She and other volunteers worked many long hours for my election and, thanks to these efforts, we were successful. When I took office, Jan joined my staff working out of my Tusculumbia office as a field representative and State aide, continuing her legacy of long hours and hard work. In her 18 years on my Senate staff, Jan has traveled the State of Alabama like few others have. She knows the "where" and the "who" and can tell you the always-fascinating history that goes with it. Jan was born in Franklin County to Oscar and Nelda Lois Jackson. She has a son, Jacob Johnson, and a daughter, Mary Elizabeth Johnson Cahoon. I have depended on her greatly over the years and have appreciated her hard work.

JEANNE JONES

Since September 1982, Jeanne Jones has been a case worker and secretary in my Mobile office. For many years, Jeanne was the right-hand for Bob Morrisette, my dear friend and field representative in Mobile who passed away only recently. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Lloyd, Jeanne was born in Birmingham, AL. She graduated from Shades Valley High School and attended Jacksonville State University and the University of South Alabama. Jeanne moved to Ju-

neau to work for the State of Alaska for 2 years before returning to Alabama to live in Mobile in 1971. She has three children: Jeri, Jana and Jill; one son-in-law, Dirk, and two grandchildren, Taylor and Shelby. For 14 years, Jeanne has helped thousands of people in south Alabama with countless issues. I appreciate her dedicated work and tireless efforts on my behalf.

BETTY STREETER LANIER

Betty Lanier has been serving on my staff for more than 10 years now as a secretary and staff assistant. Most recently, she has worked extensively with the legislative director, serving as his right hand in terms of managing his heavy load of casework, correspondence, and legislative schedule. Previously, Betty worked for Illinois Senator PAUL SIMON and for a short time for Congressman Claude Pepper's House of Representatives Subcommittee on Health and Long-term Care. She also worked for several offices within the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which brought her to Washington. From the small Bullock County town of Midway, AL, Betty is endowed with a variety of talents. She is a member of the Congressional Chorus, and has performed with the group at inaugurations, annual lightings of the Capitol Christmas tree, and Kennedy Center Arts Festivals. In addition, she has taken several Shakespearean acting classes. A post and avid reader, she has done an outstanding job and brought a real cultural and artistic flair to the office.

ALAN LEETH

Alan Leeth has been a legislative assistant and counsel in my office since December 1995, responsible for banking, budget, tax issues and Indian affairs. In the year that he has been with me, he has helped me develop and plan legislative initiatives, monitor developments within committees and on the Senate floor. Alan is from Opelika, AL, and is the son of Roy and Carol Leeth. He graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and received his law degree from my law school alma mater, the University of Alabama, where he met his wife Tracy. Alan has been a tremendous asset to my staff and I am sure I will continue to hear great things from him in the future.

WILLIAM MANSSEL LONG, JR.

William Mansel Long, Jr. began working in my Washington office in 1979 as a legislative assistant. Since that time, he has moved up the ranks and currently serves as legislative director. Mansel has proven himself to be a close friend, loyal employee, and trusted advisor. I have known him and his family for many years; he is also a native of Tusculumbia. He served in the Army for 2 years, earning a Good Conduct Medal. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Tennessee State University, and has taken graduate courses at Alabama A&M University, District of Columbia Teachers College,

The American University, Catholic University, Trinity College, and George Washington University. Before joining my staff, Mansel was a social studies teacher, special education teacher, and a consultant for International Business Services. He has received numerous honors and awards, and received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Faulkner University in 1984. "Dr. Long," as the staff affectionately calls him, has been an outstanding public servant and I could not imagine having served in the Senate without his assistance and leadership.

JUDY LOVELL

Judy Lovell has been my correspondence manager since 1990. In those 6 years, she has helped me develop and maintain an office mail management plan to deal with the thousands of letters we receive every week. Judy takes care of the mail in a full circle approach. She directs the incoming mail to the appropriate person and then oversees the final return mailing process, scrutinizing everything from grammar to content. Aside from her outstanding work, Judy is also known for her excellent bean dip, which we have been fortunate enough to frequently sample over the years. Before joining my staff, Judy worked for Senator Howard Cannon of Nevada from 1981 to 1983, and Senator John Danforth of Missouri from 1983 to 1990. She and her husband John live in Bowie, MD, and have four children: John, Tim, Terry, and Tracy; and one grandchild, Katy.

KRISTI MASHON

Kristi Mashon has taken on the herculean task of archiving documents from my career as a Senator and as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. She has been working with me on this project since June 1995. Kristi previously served as archivist for Senator George Mitchell of Maine and is also currently working for Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont. A native of Austin, TX, Kristi is the daughter of Les and Barbara King. She graduated from the University of Texas in 1988 and completed her graduate education at the University of Maryland in 1995. Kristi and her husband Mike have one daughter, Madeleine, who recently celebrated her second birthday. I have appreciated Kristi's thorough work and attention to detail. I am confident that my documents and memorabilia are in good hands.

KIMBERLY MCDONALD

Kim has been with my staff since November 1991. She started out as a legislative correspondent, researching and formulating responses to constituent mail. In 1995, she was promoted to caseworker where she acts as a liaison between constituents and Federal, State or local government agencies. Her areas of responsibility include Aging, Foreign Affairs, Government Affairs, Health, Immigration, Labor, Postal Affairs and Social Security. As you can imagine, with such a wide range of issues, Kim stays busy. She has worked

with me to help countless Alabamians who thought they had no where to turn. It was only about a year ago that our staff celebrated Kim's marriage to Curtis F.M. McDonald, our last "office" wedding. I have enjoyed working with Kim and am sure that she will continue to achieve great things.

TOM MCMAHON

Tom McMahon has been my press secretary since February 1989. As my chief spokesperson, Tom has to be conversant on a wide variety of issues. In this area he has proven himself as a true "renaissance man," able to knowledgeably discuss everything from bankruptcy reform to crop insurance. Tom came to Washington in 1987 as press secretary to the late Representative Bill Nichols of Alabama. Prior to that, he worked in university relations at his alma mater, Auburn University. In fact, Tom leads the "Auburn gang" in my office as a former president of the Metro Washington Auburn Club. He graduated from Auburn in 1984 with a degree in communications. Before graduation, he was station manager at Auburn's WEGL-FM radio and worked as an anchor and reporter at WAUD-AM radio, also in Auburn. He and his wife Diane, a native of Scottsboro, AL, now live in the Washington area. I have appreciated the outstanding work Tom has done over the years and am sure we will continue to hear great things from him in the future.

JACQUELINE A. NATTER

Jackie joined my staff as a legislative correspondent in November 1994, after serving an internship at the State Department's Bureau for Political-Military Affairs. While she was studying international relations and English at Georgetown University, from which she graduated in 1994, Jackie completed an internship in my office and worked as a research assistant for the National War College. As a self-described "military brat," her interest in military affairs started at a very young age, and has continued through her academic and professional work. Currently serving as a legislative assistant handling national defense, space, and veterans issues, Jackie also coordinates my military services academy nominations. She is the middle daughter of Rear Admiral Jack and Nancy Natter of Birmingham and is looking forward to returning to Alabama at some point in the future. She has been a valuable addition to my staff and I know she will make tangible contributions to the fields of national defense and foreign policy in the future.

BARRY PHELPS

A native of the Birmingham, AL area, Barry Phelps moved to Washington in 1989 after completing his master of public administration and bachelor of arts degrees at the University of Alabama. He came to work for my office in the fall of 1990 as a legislative correspondent and 1 year later became my speechwriter. Since that time, he has simultaneously handled legislative

issues relating to foreign policy, international trade, and general governmental affairs. In addition to being an excellent "wordsmith," Barry has also been instrumental to my work as chairman of the Senate delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly, traveling either with me or as my representative to NAA meetings in Berlin, Germany; Copenhagen, Denmark; Oslo, Norway; and Turin, Italy. In the fall of 1993, he began the graduate liberal arts program at Georgetown University, attending classes in the evenings and on weekends. He completed his master of arts degree there in April 1996, concentrating his studies in the area of international affairs. We were not surprised to learn that Barry was ranked first in his graduating class and had the honor of serving as commencement marshal.

ROBERT SCHULTZ

Bob Schultz has been an outstanding recent addition to my staff in Washington. A Pennsylvania native and graduate of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Rob was brought on board earlier this year to handle the important task of compiling and summarizing my 18-year Senate legislative record. He completed a similar project for former Senator Don Riegle of Michigan in 1993 and 1994. Since he has been here, he has compiled my record in certain policy areas, such as defense and foreign policy, agriculture, court reform and judiciary, civil rights, and space exploration and NASA. Rob has done an incredible job under severe time constraints, and we could not have succeeded without him.

BARBARA SHERRILL

I noted in my retirement announcement that Tuscumbia, AL, is the best little town in America to go home to. Barbara Sherrill, a secretary and case-worker in my Tuscumbia office, figured that out years ago. A native of Waukegan, IL, Barbara worked in Washington, DC, for the Air Force at the Pentagon. Her husband, Estes, is a native of Tuscumbia, so in 1971 after he retired as an Air Force pilot, their family moved back to that area. Barbara joined my staff in 1985, working with my chief of staff, the late Bill Gardiner. Her assistance has been invaluable to me as well as to the many constituents who call or drop by the Tuscumbia office seeking help. She has said that her greatest reward is hearing constituents say that the help they received from our office has made a difference in their lives. Barbara has three children—Beth, Martha, and Andy—and three grandchildren—Benjamin, Elizabeth, and Rachel.

SAMANTHA SMITH

Two positions in a Senate office that are usually considered "gatekeepers" to the member are receptionist and personal scheduler. By that definition, Samantha Smith is the ultimate "gatekeeper," serving on my staff since August 1993—first as a receptionist and then as scheduler. Born in Florence,

AL, she is the middle daughter of Judge and Mrs. Larry Mack Smith. Samantha graduated from Hollins College in Virginia in 1992 with a degree in French. She spent a total of 2 years in France both as a student and as a teacher before joining my staff. Her ability to juggle the hectic schedule requests that come into my office has been a tremendous asset to me. I appreciate the fine job she has done.

MARY K. SPEIS

Mary Speis has been with my staff ever since the beginning of my tenure in 1979. Her career on Capitol Hill, however, goes all the way back to 1965, when she served as an assistant to former Illinois Congressman Barratt O'Hara. A native of Washington, DC, her Alabama ties came about thanks to her sister, Jackie, who worked for Alabama Congressman TOM BEVILL before moving to Athens, Greece to be with her husband, a native of that beautiful country. Mary has often visited her sister in Greece during the summer recess periods. A graduate of the University of Maryland with a fine arts degree, she landed a job with former Alabama Senator James B. Allen working with the legislative assistants. In 1978, after the death of Senator Allen, she worked for his wife, Marion, who succeeded him in the Senate. In 1979, she came to my office to serve as an aid to the legislative assistants. In 1985, she began working as my personal assistant and has become very special to me and the rest of the staff.

YOLANDA ANGELINE TURNER

Yolanda Turner came on board our "Senate ship" in August 1992 as a staff assistant working with the office manager and correspondence management staff. The daughter of Mrs. Velda A. Ragland and Mr. Glenn A. Turner, she is from Suitland, MD. Her mother and sister, Monique A. Turner, work for Senator BILL BRADLEY, just down the hall from Yolanda. Their work in the Senate is truly a "family affair." Before joining our office, she was a clerk typist for the resource management staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We were all excited earlier this year by the birth of Yolanda's daughter, Breanna Akira Turner.

STANLEY VINES

If you want to know about voting statistics and election demographics in the State of Alabama, Stanley Vines is the man to see. With over 20 years of involvement in Alabama politics, he has gathered a wealth of information about voting trends. Stanley's political bloodline runs deep—his father's family has been active in politics in the Bessemer area for over a century. He began political work in 1976 and since that time, has set up phone banks and helped runs numerous campaigns for Alabama candidates. Stanley began serving as field representative in my Birmingham office in 1982, after a 41-year career with American Cast Iron Pipe Co. In the years since, he has helped me better present the people of

Alabama by keeping me abreast of the issues and events going on in that area. Born in Watson, AL, Stanley graduated from Birmingham's Phillips High School and attended Jefferson State Junior College. Stanley and his wife, Ethel Catherine Vines, have two sons, Thomas and James.

HEIDI WAGNER

Heidi Wagner has served as a front-office receptionist in my personal office and most recently as clerk and staff assistant for the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts minority staff. A Mobile, AL native, she graduated from the University of South Alabama and is working on a masters degree at American University here in Washington. She is the portrait of cool under pressure, since she is always able to handle even the most demanding tasks and situations with grace, professionalism, and good humor. She is sort of a word "connoisseur," constantly challenging staff with the presentation of new words and definitions to enhance their vocabulary. Her "Word of the Day" feature appearing on computer screens each morning was often a welcome way to begin the day.

SALLY WALBURN

The first voice you hear when you call into my Washington office is that of Sally Walburn. Her cheery "Senator HEFLIN's office, this is Sally. May I help you?" has opened up hundreds of conversations with Alabamians. Sally has been my receptionist since June 1996. A native of Tuscaloosa, AL, she is the youngest child of Dr. and Mrs. James Walburn. Sally graduated from Ole Miss in May 1996 with a degree in English. Although her time on my staff has been brief, she has demonstrated her outstanding abilities in dealing with constituents on the "front line." I wish her every future success.

JAMES G. WHIDDON III

Jim Whiddon is currently serving as my counsel on the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts and as legislative assistant for energy and natural resources issues. He has done an outstanding job on these and other issues that have come his way since joining the staff in 1993. He has been especially helpful on bankruptcy reform and the constitutional amendment to ban flag burning. Before moving to Washington, he worked in Atlanta. Jim, a native of Montgomery, attended the University of Alabama, where he earned his bachelor of science degree at Samford University in Birmingham, where he obtained his juris doctor degree from the Cumberland School of Law. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable Rodney R. Steele, Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

JANETTA WHITT-MITCHELL

Janetta Whitt-Mitchell is a native of Mobile, AL. She graduated from Tuskegee University and is a longtime community activist and energetic ad-

vocate for the improvement of social conditions. Through her work as my Mobile field representative and other leadership activities, she had helped communities address needs related to health care, employment, human rights, education, law enforcement, economics, and drug abuse. She is a member of the New South Coalition and an associate of the National Organization for Women. She is also first vice president of Mobile's Human Rights Commission and serves on the board of directors of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women's Mobile County Chapter. The daughter of Mr. Charles and Mrs. Mary Lee Whitt, she is married to Dr. Joseph Colvis Mitchell. Janetta has been an invaluable member of my State staff and I truly appreciate her hard work and advocacy on so many issues and projects.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THORTON STEARNS

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to offer congratulations to Thorton Stearns, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and longtime resident of Winchester, MA, who is the first recipient of the Eugene Joseph McCarthy Philanthropist of the Year Award, presented by Winchester Hospital.

For more than 15 years, Mr. Stearns has generously supported the hospital's philanthropic efforts. He has embodied the spirit of philanthropy of Mr. Eugene McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy was a quiet, private, but generous man who upon his passing left Winchester Hospital and numerous other charities a \$1 million bequest.

Thorton Stearns, known affectionately to the staff of Winchester Hospital as "Thorny," has served the hospital as a corporator. He has acknowledged that his philanthropy has a component of self-interest, having said, "I have used the hospital and I might need its services again; therefore, it is important that I support the hospital financially."

Now chairman of the Vacuum Barrier Corp., which he founded in 1958, Thorton Stearns continues to be an active member of the Winchester community. I am pleased to recognize his efforts on behalf of Winchester Hospital and wish to congratulate him on being chosen as the first recipient of its Philanthropist of the Year Award.●

#### THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise to offer my congratulations to the School of Nursing at the University of Maryland Baltimore campus and its dean, Dr. Barbara Heller, as ground breaking begins for a new, state-of-the-art facility designed to provide an exceptional environment for students to obtain a high-technology, interactive nursing education.

The 150,000-square-foot building will combine cutting edge technology with

the existing topnotch, challenging curriculum. Since its establishment in 1889, the school of nursing in Baltimore has proven to be a nationally recognized leader in the nursing profession, providing high quality, specialized training for nurses across the country. The school ranks consistently among the top 10 schools of nursing in the United States and was recently listed as sixth in the Nation by U.S. News & World Report.

The school is a leading supplier of professional nurses for Maryland, with close to 82 percent of its graduates practicing in the State. With the increased demand for well-prepared nurses in health care delivery, I am confident that the school's graduates will provide this exceptional care to Maryland residents, as well as to all of our Nation's citizens.

As the first school in the world with a nursing informatics program, as well as the Nation's first program in nursing health policy, the School of Nursing at the University of Maryland Baltimore campus is a leader in providing the innovative knowledge and skills required to practice in an ever-changing profession. The school currently offers concentrations in a variety of fields including oncology, additions, neonatal intensive care, primary care, gerontology, informatics, and community-based care.

Mr. President, I was privileged to attend the ground breaking ceremony for this exceptional facility on September 27. I urge my colleagues today to join me once again in recognizing the school of nursing for its dedication to innovative educational programs of the highest caliber, its focus on community service, and its commitment to clinical research. The gifted students who will receive their education in this new facility will prove critical in ensuring that the people of Maryland and across the Nation will receive quality care in our changing health care environment.●

#### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate earlier this month passed legislation, as part of the omnibus parks bill, to authorize the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to establish a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the District of Columbia.

I first introduced this legislation in the U.S. Senate in 1985 and have re-introduced it in each succeeding Congress. While we have been able to move this legislation through the Senate in two previous Congresses, until now it has failed to pass the House of Representatives. Fortunately, the bill has now also passed in the House of Representatives, thanks to the good work of Congresswoman MORELLA and Congressman DIXON.

Since 1955, when in Montgomery, AL, Dr. King became a national hero and