

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 reintroduced 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