

while at the same time rising to excellence within her chosen field as a TV anchor. Jennifer Valoppi conceived, created and founded "Women of Tomorrow" in 1997 and convinced her employer, NBC 6, to sponsor this very successful teen mentoring program.

"Women of Tomorrow" pairs professional women in the area with teenage girls of South Florida in order to improve their self-esteem as well as provide guidance and nurturing in their lives. The program is designed to show young women the endless possibilities ahead of them as they embark on the beginning of their adult lives.

Mentors meet with small groups, no larger than ten girls, to discuss their ambitions, motivations, positive attitudes and the achievement of their dreams in addition to sharing personal stories of triumph and temporary setbacks. Roads to success as well as potential roadblocks are also discussed.

In addition to launching this wonderful organization devoted to teenage girls, Jennifer is a multi-E Emmy award winning journalist who has twice been named "Best TV News Anchor."

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer has certainly made a mark on our community and I applaud her example to the community. She inspires all of us with her dedication and drive to improve the world around us.

#### SKOKIE, ONE OF THE BEST TOWNS AROUND

#### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Washington, DC, January 14, 1999.*

MAYOR JACQUELINE B. GORELL,  
*Village of Skokie, Skokie IL.*

DEAR MAYOR GORELL: What a wonderful job you have done in shaping Skokie into the remarkable place that it is! You should feel very proud and fulfilled as you leave elective office after 22 years of service, ten as Mayor. Now it is your turn to enjoy the wealth of opportunities that you have brought to Skokie.

You have more time to enjoy the world class library for which you were truly the driving force. You can walk the beautiful canal bank along with so many of your villagers who are appreciating the bike path, the sculpture park and the natural beauty which your vision and work made possible. You and Nate can attend even more excellent activities at the Performing Arts Center which is now your legacy. And you can rest assured at all times that you and yours are protected by a police and fire department that achieved a status that few other municipalities have reached while under your watch.

It is no wonder that Chicago Magazine rated Skokie as "one of the best towns around", and Worth Magazine said that "on Wall Street, it is a star." Those of us who have had the pleasure of working with you and observing your leadership are not surprised by these accolades.

Mayor Gorell, thank you for all that you have done for the community. I wish you happiness in your retirement. If I can ever be

of help to you, I would be honored if you would call on me.

Sincerely,

JAN SCHAKOWSKY,  
*Member of Congress.*

#### TRIBUTE TO FLORA WALKER

#### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in rising today to recognize Flora Walker, past President of AFSCME Council 25, who retired on November 16, 1998. Her friends and colleagues will honor her with a reception on January 29, 1999.

Through the years, Flora Walker has been a fighter. Her tireless efforts have improved the lives of the working families throughout Southeastern Michigan. Flora is a woman who has dedicated her life to securing dignity and respect for all people. She has been a champion of civil rights and civil liberties, and has helped create a stronger, more united community. Her strong leadership and vision were recognized by her colleagues and she was chosen to serve in a distinguished list of elected positions.

Flora Walker began her career with the AFSCME Council 25 Executive Board that continued for twenty-four years. Her first elected position was as a representative. She went on to serve as delegate to one special and two regular Council 25 Conventions. Her tenure as president began in 1992 during a time of crisis for the Council. Under her guidance, it has become a strong, united, statewide council continuing the work begun by the Founding Convention in 1978.

During her six years as President, many new innovative programs were implemented. Flora was instrumental in overhauling the entire Council 25 legal operation, providing union members with an unprecedented level of service. The arbitration department was streamlined, initiating a process of audits and increasing the number of advocates. She has also served as an AFSCME International Vice President from Michigan. Flora had a demanding schedule, but she would never hesitate to go to the bargaining table with her members if needed.

Flora is not only an active union leader, but a community leader as well. She has received both the Champion of Hope Award from the National Kidney Foundation and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. She was recognized by the University of Michigan during a Black Labor History Celebration. She has been honored for her active involvement in the community, in the political arena, and in service and charitable projects.

Few people have given to their community with the vision and commitment that Flora Walker has given to hers. She is a person who has inspired the admiration of many. I am sure her colleagues will miss the famous Walker hug. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Flora on her very distinguished career and I wish her and her family all of the best.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE VERNON  
IRONS, SR.

#### HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to eulogize and celebrate the life of Dr. George Vernon Irons, Sr., distinguished professor of history and political science at Samford University for 43 years, who passed away July 21, 1998. Dr. Irons taught 17 university presidents—more than any other known educator.

Dr. Irons was also a colonel in the United States Army for 33 years, active and reserve, and received full military honors. Dr. Irons was a member of the prestigious Alabama Sports Hall of Fame for 22 years—its oldest member. He was the only distance star ever inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and a true great in Alabama's rich athletic history. As captain of the University of Alabama distance team, he broke the record for the Birmingham Road Race in 1923. His record was never broken or equaled. Dr. Irons also broke the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association, now the Southeastern Conference, record for two, three and three and one-half mile races.

Dr. Irons was listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Who's Who in American Education and Directory of American Scholars. Dr. Irons was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal from Freedom's Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in 1962.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that articles from the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and Bama Magazine be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to share the achievements of this great Alabamian who served Samford University as distinguished educator 43 years, his country as colonel in the U.S. Army 33 years and his alma mater, the University of Alabama, as a record-breaking champion athlete and Phi Beta Kappa honor student.

[From the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame]

IRONS ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING FINISH LINE  
FIRST

(By Kyle Mooty)

While football was far from its 'king' stages the University of Alabama would enjoy in the future, Crimson Tide track star George Irons was keeping the athletic flame burning at the Capstone as its 'Knight of the Cinderpath.'

Former Alabama Sen. John Sparkman was a classmate of Irons at Alabama and later served in the Army together. And according to Sparkman, if it hadn't been for Irons, athletics would have been pretty boring during that time period at Alabama.

"George Irons was all we had to cheer about," said Sparkman.

Today, Dr. George Vernon Irons is catching another milestone, as he'll turn 91 on Aug. 7.

With the discipline, desire and skill he possessed, Irons would have probably been a standout distance runner anyway. But there were other reasons for perfecting the art of running.

"For the fear of being paddled," Irons said. "When I was a freshman at Alabama the sophomores were always getting after the freshmen. If they caught you, you could do one of two things . . . you could lie or you could run. Don't press me too much on which I did because I did both of them."