

over the past 41 years. While in Alaska, he taught broadcasting classes at the University of Alaska. Dick spent several years announcing at the Redwood Acres Speedway and Eureka Speedway in California, as well as the Southern Oregon Speedway. He also announced the Hanford 150 in Hanford, California, and a Canadian-American Race in Vermont. Dick's wandering came to an end when he settled in Shady Cove in Oregon's Jackson Valley, and it is there that he will retire.

During his career, Dick has covered Presidents Ronald Reagan, George Bush the Elder, Bill Clinton and our current President Bush. During President Bush's trip to southern Oregon last year, he provided steady and reliable coverage of the President's visit, which his listeners have come to expect from Dick. For years he has communicated the latest news and happenings around the greater Medford area with clarity and precision. Dick has both a voice made for radio, and no one who has heard him on the airwaves doubts that he found his true calling. Fortunately, he also has a tremendous sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Bailey's service to his community did not just come in the form of his news broadcasts. He has also lent his voice to the Jacksonville Christmas Parade and other local activities. Anyone who knows Dick knows of his love of the outdoors, and his service as a member of the Jackson County Parks Commission reflects his desire to preserve the natural beauty of his adopted home. He is an active outdoorsman and has made clear how much he looks forward to the extra time he will have for fishing following his retirement. In the years ahead, the local fish population will have much to fear from Dick as he spends his days casting his line and enjoying the beauty of southern Oregon's waterways.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Bailey will be fondly remembered by his listeners in southern Oregon, just as he'll be missed by his colleagues. Like everyone who has dealt with Dick in a professional capacity, I'm sorry to see him retire, but happy to see him begin the relaxing years of his retirement. Thank you for everything you've given to us, Dick, and best wishes in the years ahead.

THE EAST KERN AIRPORT
DISTRICT IN MOJAVE, CALIFORNIA

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is necessary to enhance our national security. The East Kern Airport District in Mojave, California, faces unique security threats.

Although it is a General Aviation airport and does not have commercial passengers, the East Kern Airport District is home to high-tech aerospace firms and provides storage to over 300 commercial transport aircraft. These aircraft, which are stored with fifty percent of their fuel tanks full, rest just minutes through the air from several major military installations and downtown Los Angeles.

Since September 11, 2001, the Airport has been seeking funding to address these threats, as it fears a serious act of terrorism.

However, the Airport has been repeatedly informed that no security funds are available for its needs because it is classified as a General Aviation airport.

To correct this situation, I am introducing legislation today to ensure that the Undersecretary of Transportation has the authority needed to enhance security at the East Kern Airport District. Very simply, this legislation will allow the Undersecretary to provide up to \$300,000 annually to meet the Airport's security costs and up to \$1.25 million to reimburse the East Kern Airport District for security costs incurred since September 11, 2001.

I trust that my colleagues and the appropriate Department of Homeland Security officials will recognize the East Kern Airport District's unique situation and work with me to ensure that the Airport is adequately protected.

RICHARD K. ARMEY ROOM

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and former colleague, Former Majority Leader Richard K. Armeay. Representative Armeay recently retired following 18 years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives, including eight years as the Majority Leader.

From his humble roots in Cando, North Dakota, to his rise in Washington, Dick Armeay never drifted from his principles of honesty and integrity. He made life better not only for his constituents in Texas, but for Americans all across this great land. His work in Congress saved taxpayers millions of dollars annually. His sound conservative values renewed America's commitment to the principles of personal freedom and limited government.

As a loyal and dedicated conservative, Dick Armeay advocated welfare reform, personal retirement accounts for Social Security, and fundamental reform of the tax code. He specifically supported implementing a flat tax. His persistence to this cause gave it a national platform. This cause continues in his new career at Citizens for a Sound Economy as its Co-Chairman.

It has been a great honor to spend most of my tenure in Congress working with Representative Armeay, a fine Southern gentleman and true fiscal conservative. The naming of Room 236 in the U.S. Capitol as the Richard K. Armeay room is a deserving tribute for a committed public servant. I will miss my good friend Grumpy, and I wish him and his wife Susan all the best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONNIE
BUCHNER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today to recognize Connie Buchner of Rocky Ford, Colorado for her decades of service to the United States

Postal Service. Connie retired in January after a thirty-four year career and, as she enjoys her retirement, I would like to highlight her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

In her thirty-four years with the postal service, Connie has overseen remarkable changes in technology, moving from labor-intensive mail processing to a largely automated workload. Connie also supervised increased security demands following the September 11, 2002 terrorist attacks.

Connie began working for the postal service in 1970 as a letter carrier. She rose through the ranks to become Rocky Ford's postmaster, and also served as the Fowler postmaster for sixteen years. Connie has touched many lives in her long career, and the Rocky Ford community insisted on holding an open house reception to officially send her off into retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Connie Buchner for her thirty-four years of outstanding service to her community. Post Offices are often the lynchpin of small communities, and Connie filled her position with the Postal Service with compassion and efficiency. I am thankful for her service.

HONORING THOMPSON
ENGINEERING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thompson Engineering, an extraordinary engineering design, environmental, construction inspection and materials testing firm located in Mobile, Alabama. Each year, the Alabama Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies honors outstanding engineering achievements with its Engineering Excellence Awards. This year, Thompson Engineering was recognized with the 2003 Engineering Excellence Honor Award by the Alabama Chapter and received national recognition by the American Council of Engineering Companies for its outstanding work as prime design consultant for the Mobile Landing project.

Mobile Landing is a twelve-acre municipal wharf complex on the Mobile River adjacent to the waterfront business and entertainment districts in downtown Mobile, Alabama. The landing provides the citizens of Mobile with a publicly accessible waterfront development including a new ceremonial docking space for large oceangoing vessels; a riverfront pedestrian promenade; an outdoor plaza with amphitheater, bandstand and fountain; parking for vehicles; utilities; security and lighting and landscaped open space.

Thompson Engineering, as the lead design firm, developed the master plan for the project site and provided architectural and engineering design and construction management services for the project. Thompson also provided grant budgeting and management, regulatory permitting and environmental assessment, subsurface exploration, land and hydrographic surveying, and a cultural resources reconnaissance report for the project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me and the American Council