

Prokhorenko, and the courageous Siege veteran essayist Daniil Granin served as the gracious hosts of our visit. Each host sincerely conveyed warm Russian hospitality in one of the world's most beautiful cities.

Additionally, the professional staff of the U.S. Consulate at St. Petersburg including the U.S. Marine contingent was very helpful. Acting Consul General Karen Malzahn with her staff have a proven record of enthusiasm and continues to represent America at its best.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS.  
LANCIE M. THOMAS

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2005*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor her and pay tribute to her memory. Mrs. Lencie B. Thomas was a devoted family woman and a pioneer in the Alabama publishing community.

A native of Beatrice, Alabama, Mrs. Thomas attended the Monroe County Training School, Tuskegee University, and Alabama State University, and following her education she worked for many years as a home economics teacher in the Tuscaloosa County school system. Upon leaving the teaching profession, she began to assist her husband, the late Frank Thomas, with the building of several newspapers throughout the state of Alabama. These included the Selma (Alabama) Citizen, the Alabama Citizen in Tuscaloosa, and the Mobile Weekly Review. The Weekly Review, started in 1943, had its named changed to the Beacon in 1954 and has continued operations to the present day. During her long newspaper career, Mrs. Thomas worked in a variety of positions in the family's newspaper business, including those of vice president, secretary, and treasurer. She eventually became the editor and publisher of the Beacon and continued in that position until her retirement as publisher emeritus in 1997.

Even with her numerous professional obligations, Mrs. Thomas also found time to involve herself in several Mobile community organizations and other causes which had an impact on the local, state, and federal levels. Beginning in the 1940s, she was involved in voter registration efforts throughout Alabama and became involved in numerous political, social, and religious organizations throughout the United States. She was instrumental in the formation of Mobile's Hillsdale Presbyterian Church and served as one of that parish's founding elders, as well as devoting significant time to attending to the needs of the congregation, both young and old alike. Mrs. Thomas served as the vice president of the Presbyterian Woman of South Alabama and was in 1988 selected to represent south Alabama at the Bicentennial Celebration of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

She was also a member of the Alabama Press Association, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Greater Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the Advertising Federation of Greater Mobile, the South Alabama Region Planning Committee, the Mobile Mental Health Center, the Drug and Alcohol Council, and the Better Business Bureau.

Notwithstanding her significant professional accomplishments, Mrs. Thomas was also recognized on numerous occasions for her impact on her community and on the African-American population in Alabama and across the country. She was honored by the Alabama Press Association for lifetime achievement, and in 1974 was honored by the National Council of Negro Women for her professional accomplishments. Additionally, the NAACP recognized her efforts nationally in 1998, and she is the first African-American to be inducted into Auburn University's Hall of Honor. She has also been recognized by the City of Mobile, the Mobile County Commission, and such organizations as the Drug Education Council, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Throughout her life, Lencie Thomas set a standard of excellence in the newspaper business second to none. More importantly, however, she set a standard of excellence in her achievements specifically on behalf of the American-American community, but also for the entire City of Mobile, her State, and her Nation. She will be deeply missed by her family—her daughter, Cleretta Thomas Blackmon, her stepdaughter, Audrey Thomas, her siblings, Alberta B. Ford, Robert Black, Ruth B. Jefferson, Jency B. Mitchell, Alexander Black, Bennye B. Reasor, and Rufus Black, and her grandchildren—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

IN MEMORY OF LEO HACKNEY

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2005*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to celebrate the life of a great East Texan and my good friend, Leo Hackney, who passed away on February 22 at the age of 85. Leo was one of the giants in Greenville, Texas, where he devoted his life to serving the citizens of his beloved community.

Leo served as Mayor of Greenville three times and as Mayor Pro-Tem and Council Member. He was chairman of the Greenville Board of Development and president of the Chamber of Commerce. He served as tri-captain for Greenville's Sesquicentennial Celebration that established the Audie Murphy Statue for the city. He served as a member of the Greenville Independent School District, Greenville Hospital, YMCA, U.S. Savings Bond Board, Citizens for Growing Greenville, Greenville Majors Baseball Team Club and Junior Chamber of Commerce. He headed the March of Dimes Drive and United Way Fund, the drive to build a Sports Complex for the City, and served as president of the Hunt County Development Council. He was one of the organizers of Colonial Bank and operated it for several years. Earlier in his career, he joined KGVV radio station, beginning in sales and reporting and working up to general manager and eventually president. He later became president of sister FM station KIKT and built the first cable television system in Greenville.

Leo's many accomplishments could fill volumes, and his influence in Greenville and Hunt County will be felt for years to come. In recognition of his significant contributions, the Greenville Herald Banner named Leo Outstanding Young Man in 1958, and he received the Greenville Worthy Citizen of the Year award in 1975. The street leading up to the Sports Complex was named Leo Hackney Boulevard in his honor.

Leo also served his Nation with distinction during World War II. He graduated in the top three percent of Naval Midshipman School and served as Captain of the ship that escorted General Douglas McArthur in the Philippines. He retired as Captain from the U.S. Navy after 27 years of service.

For 20 years Leo served on the committee to nominate youth to military academies for my predecessor, Congressman RAY ROBERTS, and continued to serve for another 20 years on my committee to recommend academy appointments. He served with distinction and was my trusted adviser and good friend.

Leo also was devoted to his family—his wife, Dava, daughters and sons-in-law Susan and Jim Rath of Houston and Sharon and Joe Leonard of Greenville, brother Bill Hackney of Cibola and six grandchildren. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather who supported and encouraged his family, and he leaves behind a legacy of kindness and accomplishments that will endure for generations.

Leo excelled in all that he did at every stage of his life. He was never satisfied to be only a member or supporter. He was a leader, and when he wasn't leading, he made others better leaders through his example and encouragement. Leo was never simply a friend—he was a best friend to so many. The City of Greenville and our Nation are enriched by the life of this esteemed citizen. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor and memory of this wonderful man, great American and my good friend—Leo Hackney.

THE INTRODUCTION OF "TIM  
FAGAN'S LAW"

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2005*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will make our Nation's prescription drugs safer by making it harder for counterfeit drugs to enter the distribution system and increasing penalties for those who try.

In 2002, a teenage constituent of mine, named Tim Fagan, learned first hand about the problem of counterfeit drugs in this country. He was recovering from a liver transplant, and was taking the drug Epogen, in order to fight his related anemia. His parents bought the Epogen from the local branch of reputable, nationwide pharmacy. In order to help her son, his mother dutifully injected the Epogen into his arm. After waking up in pain many nights in a row and not knowing why, the family received a telephone call. The Epogen that his mother had been injecting to help her son recover from a liver transplant was counterfeit.

It is imperative that Congress does everything they can to ensure this never happens again. The Epogen that Tim had taken was