

slow down its consideration. Once this bill is signed into law, the story is not over. Congress must continue to use its legislative authority to ensure that the compact is implemented as intended.

With strong oversight, this body must ensure that the provisions of the compact are used to protect the Great Lakes. Hopefully, this legislation is a starting point. It is the first step in protecting our water resource but it must not be our last. While I encourage a no vote on the final legislation, I do so to ensure that these concerns are clearly presented for the record.

HONORING SHIRLENE MERCER  
FOR HER LONG SERVICE TO HER  
STATE AND COUNTRY

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Mrs. Shirlene Mercer, a long-time community leader, teacher and role model. While I know she will continue to play an important role in our community, Shirlene is retiring after serving the 8th Congressional district for 20 years.

Shirlene has always worked to serve the community above herself. She was a teacher for 24 years in Hardeman County, TN, before joining our staff in 1989 as Director of District Services, a position through which she has helped countless Tennesseans.

Shirlene has also helped many West Tennesseans through her tireless dedication to fighting crime in our area by initiating regular anti-crime marches for residents of Madison County, Tennessee, to make clear their intention to keep our neighborhoods safe for our families. I have been honored to be part of these marches over the years, as have many other local, state and national leaders, including Vice President Al Gore. Shirlene's work gained national attention and helped highlight the problems of crime in our area and in many communities like it across our state and country.

Both Vice President Gore and I have been fortunate to receive Shirlene's guidance over the years, as have many other leaders, including Governor Phil Bredesen, Governor Ned McWherter, Senator Jim Sasser, Congressman Harold Ford, Sr., Congressman Harold Ford, Jr., and many members of the Tennessee General Assembly. Her counsel on issues of importance to Tennesseans has always been helpful to those who seek to better serve their communities.

Shirlene is a graduate of Merry High School and Lane College, both in Jackson, TN, and she did graduate work at the University of Memphis and Austin Peay State University. She is married to Luther, a Madison County Commissioner, and they have two grown children, Luther Mercer, Jr., and Tina Mercer. Both are following in their mother's footsteps and proving to be strong leaders in their communities.

Madam Speaker, I wish you could see Shirlene's office walls in our Jackson, TN, district office. They are filled, floor to ceiling, with awards and commendations she has earned over the years for her service and leadership.

Included in these many awards are multiple recognitions from the NAACP, the Tennessee Education Association's "Humanitarian Award" and the FBI's "Director's Community Leadership Award," just to name a few of the very long list.

I know that even as Shirlene begins her retirement from Congressional service, she will remain active in our community. I am sure she will continue to help West Tennesseans and will remain a leader in the Tennessee Democratic Party. Many of us will still seek her counsel and friendship.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you and our colleagues will join Betty Ann and me in congratulating Shirlene on her retirement, expressing deep gratitude and admiration for her long career of public service and wishing her all the best as she works in new ways to help those in our community.

HONORING SOUTH CAROLINA  
RESEARCH AUTHORITY

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, As Dean of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation, I rise today on behalf of my colleagues in the South Carolina delegation to honor the South Carolina Research Authority, SCRA, on its 25th anniversary. SCRA was established 25 years ago and, since its inception, has played a leading role in commercializing technological advances, managing research parks, and supporting small businesses and entrepreneurial development. The result has been a positive economic impact on South Carolinians. In 2007, SCRA operations, technology parks, and programs in South Carolina were responsible for a \$1.4 billion economic impact. SCRA's operations, technological programs, and research parks, have benefited South Carolina and the country.

Madam Speaker, we are honored to celebrate with fellow South Carolinians the 25th anniversary of the South Carolina Research Authority. We recognize the distinguished leadership and staff for their hard work and dedication to making SCRA successful. We look forward to witnessing the continued growth and development of this great institution and seeing the tremendous impact it has on our State and our country.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JERRY  
WELLER FOR HIS DISTIN-  
GUISHED SERVICE REP-  
RESENTING THE PEOPLE OF IL-  
LINOIS.

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a distinguished Member of Congress from the Illinois Delegation, Congressman JERRY WELLER. JERRY is a true friend and a valued member of the Illinois Delegation.

From his rural roots growing up on a farm in Dwight, Illinois, JERRY has dedicated his life

to public service. He started in the office of Representative Tom Corcoran before moving on to the office of the Secretary of Agriculture before being elected to the Illinois General Assembly. In 1994 he was elected to represent Illinois' 11th District in Congress where he has served ever since.

Congressman WELLER has been a strong voice for Illinois working tirelessly for such important projects as forming the nation's largest national prairie, the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and creating the Abraham Lincoln National Veterans Cemetery.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve with JERRY WELLER in the House of Representatives. We will all miss his presence, especially in the Illinois delegation. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Congressman WELLER and his wife Zury as they embark on new beginnings and future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN DE-  
FENSE CONTRACTING ACT

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Fairness and Accountability in Defense Contracting Act. This bill will provide much needed transparency to the growing defense contracting industry, and help shine light on any conflict of interest between Pentagon contracting officials, as well as any perceived "revolving door" between the Pentagon procurement offices and private defense contractors.

As our military conflict and commitments have increased overseas since 2003, the Department of Defense has increasingly relied on private contractors to supply goods and services to support our armed forces. In January, 2007, the Acquisition Advisory Panel issued a report to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy and the United States Congress on the procurement policies of the Federal Government. In this report, the advisory panel devoted an entire chapter to evaluating the appropriate role of contractors in supporting the Government, and found that the potential for conflicts of interest "has increased significantly in recent years" as the traditional lines between public and private functions are continually blurred.

In July of this year, the Project on Government Oversight sent a letter to the General Services Administration and stated that a revolving door now exists between public and private sectors that has "become such an accepted part of Federal contracting in recent years that it is frequently difficult to determine where the Government stops and the private sector begins." The conflict of interest that results from this "revolving door" between private contractors and Government contracting offices can create serious conflicts of interest that may result in an environment of favoritism and profiteering that will only serve to misuse Federal tax dollars and betray the public's trust.

While a revolving door culture would be disturbing in any instance where public funds are used, it is particularly heinous during a time