

public service. He gave his life to ensure that others could live without fear of violence or harm. For that, he is most certainly a hero for which this country is eternally grateful.

Throughout his career, Special Agent Hicks exemplified the FBI's motto of Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity by serving and protecting the citizens of the United States. As a former special agent, I know he will be sorely missed by all those with whom he served.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of one of our Nation's finest, Samuel K. Hicks, for his model service to United States law enforcement and his commitment to his country. He is truly deserving of America's respect and admiration.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMES WILLIAM McFARLAND

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor James William McFarland and pay tribute to his memory.

Born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Bill graduated from Tuscaloosa High School and graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama in Commerce and Business Administration. He was named outstanding real estate graduate by the Alabama Association of Realtors.

After graduation, Bill served as director of real estate for Winn Dixie Stores Incorporated in the Louisville, Kentucky division. In 1973, he returned to Tuscaloosa as vice president of Ward McFarland Incorporated, a real estate development and investment firm founded by his father, the Honorable Ward Wharton McFarland.

In 1986, Bill was the Republican Nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives for the Seventh District of Alabama. The following year, former Governor Guy Hunt appointed Bill to his cabinet as commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Retardation. During his two years as commissioner, Bill was successful in pushing for the passage of a \$1 million bond for mental health, the largest in state history. The bond issue enabled mental health facilities throughout Alabama to renovate their facilities and improve their quality of care.

Bill was also a founding member of the Southern High-Speed Rail Commission, and he served numerous terms as chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary/treasurer of the Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi Rapid Rail Transit Commission. Bill played a key role in inaugurating the Gulf Coast Limited Amtrak Service, which provided service to Alabama.

Bill was also active in state politics. He served as chairman for three terms of the Tuscaloosa County Republican Executive Committee. He served as a member of the Alabama State Republican Executive Committee, including one term as seventh district vice-chairman of the Alabama Republican Party. Bill was elected alternate delegate to the 1988 Republican National Convention and was elected statewide as delegate to the 1992 Republican National Convention, at which Presi-

dent George H.W. Bush appointed him as a floor leader for the Southern Caucus.

Bill was an officer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Alabama Governors George C. Wallace, Guy Hunt, and Jim Folsom Jr. each appointed Bill as Lieutenant Colonel Aide-de-Camp. He was also appointed by former U.S. Representative Jack Kemp as a member of the United States Congressional Advisory Board. Bill also worked with the Volunteers of America of Alabama, most recently serving as president. Bill served on the Shelton State Foundation, Friends of Bryce Hospital, as well as other leadership positions with various other community and civic organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. James William McFarland will be dearly missed by his family—his son, J.W. "Billy" McFarland Jr. and his wife, Sarah; his daughter, Mimi McFarland Cawood and her husband, Joseph; his brother, Ward Morrow McFarland; and his nephew, Ward Weston McFarland—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN FEISTNER

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Susan Feistner. Susie recently celebrated 10 years of service in my Omaha Congressional Office. She is a dedicated servant to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. She works hard and deserves accolades.

Susan Feistner serves as my Assistant District Director and Senior Constituent Liaison in my Omaha Congressional Office. Susie handles immigration issues, and this is no small task. Over the years, she has muddled through mounds of paperwork to find solutions for people and in many cases has reunited families, helped with adoptions of foreign-born children and obtained last-minute visas and passports. She has also referred people to attorneys for help in becoming legal citizens, and she has helped many constituents navigate through the tangle of U.S. Immigration laws. Her tireless service has made a difference in thousands of lives.

Over the years, Susie has also been active in Republican Party politics and has worked for candidates up and down and the ballot. Her involvement in our political process is much appreciated by me and the many others she has supported. She has also been a steady hand in my District Office and has acted as Molly Lloyd's deputy when needed. Her continuity has been a big plus for our staff.

Susie, today I offer you a heartfelt thank you. Thank you for your dedication. I am extremely proud of your contributions over the past 10 years. I am blessed to have such a professional and hard working individual on my team. Without your help and guidance, I would not be where I am today. It is a privilege and an honor to have you on my staff. Thank you again.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
LAMBERT C. MIMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor former Mayor Lambert C. Mims and pay tribute to his memory.

With a public career spanning two decades, Mayor Mims's tenure in office marked a period of significant growth for the city of Mobile, including the completion of the George C. Wallace tunnels and the Interstate 10 Bayway, the opening of the restored Fort Conde, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, and the first oil well in Mobile Bay.

Born in the small farming town of Uriah in south Monroe County, Mayor Mims grew up on a cotton farm and was no stranger to hard work. He moved to Mobile at the age of 19 and had called the city home ever since. In 1965, he was elected to the Mobile City Commission, becoming the youngest commissioner in Mobile's history. When first elected, he served as Public Works Commissioner. The commission rotated the title of mayor every 16 months and, during his tenure as mayor and commissioner, he made public morality the foundation of his administration, including the passage of an anti-pornography regulation.

After leaving office, then-Governor George C. Wallace appointed Mayor Mims as ambassador to the Alabama Waterways Development Agency. He later served as president of the American Public Works Association and the Alabama League of Municipalities.

A long-time member and deacon at Riverside Baptist Church, Mayor Mims served as president of the Alabama Baptist Brotherhood, the Alabama Baptist State Convention, the Mobile Baptist Association, and the Masonic Breakfast Club. He was a member of the Azalea Masonic Lodge #898 F & AM, the Abba Temple Shrine, West Mobile Kiwanis Club, the CBMC and served as president of the Waterfront Rescue Mission Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Lambert C. Mims will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Reecie; his sons, Dale P. Mims and L. Daniel Mims; his grandchildren, Lindsay C. Mims and Katie E. Mims; and his brother, Bibb Graves Mims—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

CYPRUS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues to shed light on disheartening developments that have taken place recently off the coast of the Republic of Cyprus.