

Jo Bonner



THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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NEW CHALLENGES FOR 111TH CONGRESS

With only a few days remaining until the end of 2008 and the 56th Presidential Inauguration just a few weeks away, activity in our nation's capital is at fever pitch.

On January 6, the 111th Congress will commence, and just two short weeks later, Barack Obama will be sworn-in as our nation's 44th president.

Hotel rooms have been booked, restaurant reservations have all been taken, and tuxedos and ball gowns are being prepared for an elegant night at one of the Inaugural balls held the night of January 20th.

After all of the pomp and ceremony, critical work awaits. Leaders from both the House and the Senate and members of President-elect Obama's transition team have begun working on ways to address our nation's priorities in the 111th Congress, including an economic stimulus plan. From the economy to the Global War on Terror, the new Congress and the new president will need to hit the ground running.

New Washington Office

If you are traveling to Washington for the Inauguration or need to reach my Washington staff in the 111th Congress, we have moved to room 2236 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The D.C. phone number, (202) 225-4931, remains the same.

MOBILE AZALEA TRAIL MAIDS TO PARTICIPATE IN INAUGURAL PARADE

The Presidential Inaugural Committee has invited Mobile's Azalea Trail Maids to participate in the Inaugural festivities. They will be joining other participants from across the country in the 56th Inaugural Parade on January 20, 2009. The parade travels down Pennsylvania Avenue following the swearing-in ceremony on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

Four years ago, the Azalea Trail Maids represented the city of Mobile at President Bush's Inaugural parade. The Azalea Trail Maids – comprised of 50 senior girls from Mobile County high schools – represent the city year-round at hundreds of civic events. They have also appeared at the Rose Bowl Parade, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and Disney's Easter Parade, among others.

MOBILE ARTIST'S WORK ON DISPLAY IN WHITE HOUSE

To showcase all 435 congressional districts, First Lady Laura Bush invited Members of Congress to select an artist from each of their districts to decorate an ornament for the official White House Christmas tree.



I chose acclaimed Mobile artist, Eugenia Foster, to design an ornament to represent Alabama's First Congressional District. Eugenia has received awards in regional and national exhibits, and her work appears in galleries throughout the Southeast.

Eugenia Foster's ornament, representing Alabama's First District, hangs on the 2008 White House Christmas Tree.

White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian

With a camellia, Mardi Gras float, oak tree, and the Alabama flag, Eugenia's ornament embodies what makes Alabama's First District so special.

Eugenia's ornament was officially revealed in the East Wing of the White House on December 2.

I am proud that the more than 60,000 visitors to the White House this Christmas season will see our beautiful ornament on display in the Blue Room of the White House.

Recently, I visited the University of South Alabama Department of Pathology at the USA Medical Center in Mobile. Dr. Carole W. Boudreaux (seated next to me), Director of Cytopathology, helped educate me on the importance of the Pap test, a screening procedure that helps identify the early signs of cervical cancer which has become an indispensable tool for cancer prevention. Here, we are looking at slides used to detect cancerous cells. We also discussed the Cytology Prophecy Improvement Act of 2008, which will ensure that pathologists, lab technicians, and other health care professionals involved in conducting Pap tests receive continuing medical education.



PROGRESS AT THYSSENKRUPP SITE



A recent aerial photo of ThyssenKrupp shows how much progress has been made in building a state-of-the-art carbon and stainless steel processing facility. The plant, which is expected to begin operation in 2010, is projected to create 2,700 jobs when fully operational. Clearly, ThyssenKrupp is off to a fast start, and we are all so proud they have chosen to call Alabama home.

From the mailbox...

Dear Congressman Bonner,

We are writing you to applaud you for the EXCELLENT staff you have in your south Alabama offices.

We must say that over the years, we have had occasions to contact your office and request your intervention in a matter or assistance with a concern.

Your staff has ALWAYS, ALWAYS been there to assist us! Your staff is so efficient, timely, and caring – showing such empathy that any problem is made just a little easier to bear when we know your staff is assisting us.

Please pass on our most sincere thanks for their talents and compassion in helping us. Your staff has eased many of our concerns over the years...and we are most grateful!

Thank you again for all you do for us all and for your kind staff. You are all appreciated!

God bless and keep you!

Kindly,

A happy constituent in Coden



VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES WIDELY ATTENDED THROUGHOUT THE FIRST DISTRICT



Above: I had the honor of attending the Daphne Veterans Day ceremony last month, where I was joined by Cub Scout Pack 31 of Spanish Fort. The Cub Scout Pack is the largest on the Eastern Shore, and a number of families have brothers, sons and others serving on active military duty.

Top right: The Dogwood Trail Maids serve as excellent ambassadors for the city of Daphne. Here, they joined me after the Veterans Day ceremony at Daphne City Hall. Bottom right: The Eastern Shore Exchange Club honored our veterans with a "Field of Valor" at the USS ALABAMA Battleship Park. The flags were purchased in remembrance or in honor of veterans, and it was truly an inspirational sight.

