

Jo Bonner



THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

422 Cannon House Office Building ★ Washington, DC 20515 ★ (202) 225-4931 ★ February/March 2007

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AREA CONTINUES

Two major events, which could have enormous impacts on economic development in southwest Alabama, occurred in February.

First, Northrop Grumman announced their intention to bid on building the new Air Force tanker.

The Mobile community has pulled together like never before to get to this point. Throughout the process, we have come to know two world-class industrial giants, Northrop Grumman and EADS, and it is obvious they like what they see in our community. We will certainly be pulling for the Northrop Grumman team as hard as we can.

My commitment towards the warfighter and the taxpayer receiving the best tanker for the money remains unchanged. Competition is vitally important to the process and may be the only way we can guarantee that the warfighter and the taxpayer are receiving the best tanker for the money.

Secondly, Airbus formally opened its North America Engineering Center at Brookley Field. Currently, the center employs 32 aerospace engineers with an average annual salary of \$75,000. At full capacity, the office will employ 150 engineers — a number that could expand should Northrop Grumman and EADS be awarded the contract to build the Air Force's next generation of refueling tankers.

This newest Airbus facility is responsible for interior design work on the new A350-XWB commercial jet, which includes the cabin interiors, lavatories, and galleys.

Without a doubt, the people of Mobile - as well as all along Alabama's Gulf Coast - are excited about our future. We are full of pride for the achievements that have brought us together, and we are full of hope for the opportunities that are on the horizon.

Left: I was honored to join U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions and a host of other state and local dignitaries at the grand opening ceremony of the Airbus Engineering Center at the Brookley Field Industrial Complex. This high-tech facility is responsible for interior design work on the new A350-XWB commercial jet. (Photo credit: Tad Jenson - MyShotz.com)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS



Last month, my committee assignments for the 110th Congress became official. I will continue to serve on the Committees on Agriculture, the Budget, and Science and Technology and will serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, also known as the Ethics Committee, and the Republican Policy Committee. Additionally, I have been named ranking member on the House Agriculture Committee's Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee.

I am extremely honored to continue serving on Agriculture, Budget, and Science. These panels are vital to many of the most important aspects of today's economy, and with the topic of ethics being at the forefront of so many discussions in Washington, it is humbling that my peers would appoint me to the House Ethics Committee.

In addition to these assignments, I will again serve as an assistant on the Republican Whip Team, a position to which I was named by Republican Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO) as an incoming freshman.



FEBRUARY TOWN HALL MEETINGS

As you may know, I held 14 town hall meetings last month in all six counties of Alabama's First District. I would like to thank the many of you who came out to one or more of these meetings to visit with my staff and me. It was certainly good to see both familiar faces and meet so many new people.

Many of you voiced concerns on the non-binding Iraq resolution passed by the House last month, which expressed disagreement over the president's troop surge plan. I certainly

agree with so many of you who told me you felt this resolution sends the wrong message to our troops, their families, and our enemies.

At many meetings, I heard concerns over the number of illegal immigrants entering the United States each day. Many of the 11

million illegal immigrants who are already here have burdened our health care institutions, our education systems, and welfare programs, while many others are not contributing to the betterment of our society as a whole, not learning English, not assimilating into our communities, and not paying taxes.

On the other hand, we need to continue to acknowledge the importance of legal immigration to ensure an adequate workforce to sustain the economy of south Alabama.

In a nutshell, it is my firm belief that we must stop illegals from coming into the United States in the future – not enhance their ability to enter the country and “fast track” their path to citizenship.

These town meetings were just the first series of town meetings for the year, and I plan to continue holding telephone town hall meetings throughout the year as well.



During my town hall meeting in Satsuma, I had the opportunity to visit with Cathy Taylor and her daughter, Holly.

REACH OUT AND READ

Last August, I had the privilege of visiting the University of South Alabama, Department of Pediatric Primary Care to read to children awaiting visits with their pediatrician. This visit was part of a statewide kick-off for Reach Out and Read-Alabama (ROR-AL), a program of the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. ROR-AL seeks to make early literacy a standard part of pediatric primary care. Pediatricians encourage parents to read aloud to their young children and give books to their patients to take home at all pediatric check-ups from six months to five years of age.

Through the process, parents learn that reading aloud is the most important thing they can do to help their children love books and to start school ready to learn.

A 1985 National Commission on Reading study reported that reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for literacy development and eventual reading success. Numerous studies have found that children who are read to from an early age are more successful at learning to read and that early exposure to print is an important part of literacy development. Research on emergent literacy skills in young children found important links between their ability to read and their exposure to literacy experiences prior to school.



Last August, as part of a statewide kick-off for Reach Out and Read-Alabama, I read to children awaiting visits with their pediatricians at the University of South Alabama, Department of Pediatric Primary Care.

From the mailbox...

Dear Congressman Bonner,

My husband and I want to thank you and your staff for your help and interest in his Social Security disability case, which was recently approved. We were very impressed with the way you followed our case, and kept in touch with us through the process. Having his case approved, and knowing that we will have a way to pay our living expenses has taken a ton off of his shoulders.

We know that you have many things on your schedule each day, a lot of them so much more important than our situation. But, you have shown us that you are will-

ing to take time to help the people that you represent - even while you're dealing with world-changing events in Congress. It gives us hope and encouragement to know that we have a man like you representing us — how blessed we are!

We appreciate all that you have done for us, and will be forever grateful for the help and concern that you have shown. You will never know what it has meant to us.

May God Bless You,

*Two satisfied constituents
Millry, Alabama*

