

Jo Bonner



THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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ECONOMIC SUMMIT SET FOR NOVEMBER 17

I am pleased to report that Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans (www.commerce.gov) has accepted my invitation to visit Mobile on November 17, 2003, to participate in a Southwest Alabama economic summit. The purpose of the summit is to bring the Southwest Alabama community together to address ways to focus the community's resources on spurring economic development and creating jobs. Baldwin, Clarke, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington counties will be the focus of the event.



Donald Evans

The Public Forum Institute of Washington will facilitate the summit, I will serve as the honorary chair, and Secretary Evans will deliver the keynote address. The Public Forum Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to creating public policy forums throughout the nation.

This event will be free and open to the public. For additional information or to register for the the summit, go to www.publicforuminstitute.org.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER 2003

- A prominent issue before Congress was clarification of the Do-Not-Call law. Courts have ruled against the right of individuals to choose not to receive telemarketing calls, so the House and Senate have worked to reinstate this law.
- The first appropriations bill signed this year by President Bush was the Homeland Security Appropriations Act. This bill was itself a first in that it was only developed this year to compartmentalize our response to potential terrorist acts on our soil.
- Another well-publicized appropriations measure is the president's \$87 billion supplemental appropriations request for Iraq and Afghanistan now in the legislative process.
- In the wake of the Northeast blackout, a renewed effort is being made to adopt a national energy policy. Major differences

between House and Senate energy bills have almost stymied the conference committee, but the conferees have rolled up their sleeves to try to reach consensus in numerous areas.

➤ The Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act is also being deliberated by a House-Senate conference committee. This major initiative passed the two bodies in different forms and compromises have been hard to achieve.

➤ The House Budget Committee on which I serve released its Waste, Fraud and Abuse report identifying some \$85-\$100 billion that the federal government wastes. This report follows a series of Budget Committee hearings and is a compilation of submissions by the various congressional committees and the General Accounting Office. The challenge now is to implement measures to eliminate wasteful spending.

From the mailbox...

Rep. Bonner,

*Thank you so much! You managed to accomplish what I have been unable to do.
Best wishes in Washington —*

Sincerely, A Baldwin County constituent, February, 2003

(This was from a veteran who finally received his Army medals from the Vietnam War)

1ST DISTRICT BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH Masland Carpets & Rugs

Masland Carpets and Rugs was founded in Pennsylvania in 1866 and still today boasts of its heritage as a leading carpet manufacturer in the United States. For over 136 years Masland has insisted that its carpets and rugs maintain the highest quality — a tradition that continues today.

We are proud to have two Masland operations in the First District of Alabama — a manufacturing facility in Atmore which produces over eight million square yards of broadloom annually and a distribution center in Saraland where all rug designs are manufactured. Combined, they employ 753 South Alabamians — 420 in Atmore and 333 in Saraland. And Masland just announced plans to expand its facility in Saraland, adding up to 20 new jobs by the end of this year.

I know firsthand of the beauty and quality of their product. Earlier this year, Masland Carpets in Saraland created a work of art to be showcased in my Washington office. Pictured below is the handmade carpet depicting the seal of the U.S. House of Representatives. It is truly breathtaking and the talk of Capitol Hill!

Thank you, Masland, for your commitment to South Alabama!



Pictured at right is the rug hand-crafted by Masland

AMERICA'S FUTURE LEADERS TOP NOTCH

The following "Letter to the Editor" was printed in the *Mobile Register* on Monday, September 29, 2003.

It has been an honor to have over 25 young Alabamians intern on my staff, both in Washington and Mobile. While the headlines often lead us to believe that the youth of this country are headed in the wrong direction, it was heartening to spend time with these individuals and see firsthand that the future leaders of our country are top notch.

Thank you, Brad Israel, for your very kind letter.

D.C. interning a great experience

It sometimes seems that bashing political figures is a popular pastime in America. Having spent the summer in Washington working as an intern in the offices of Congressman Jo Bonner and Sen. Jeff Sessions, I have a different perspective on these tireless public servants. They are both selfless, hard-working, patriotic gentlemen who put in long hours of hard work for their constituents.



It was not unusual for them to arrive very early in the morning and go home extremely late at night while I was in Washington.

Congressman Bonner's interns had the privilege of numerous interactions with him, and we are all grateful for the opportunity to observe his leadership skills and his sincere conviction to public service.

Sen. Sessions, serving on the Judiciary Committee, was very busy with the Bill Pryor vote and acquitted himself well.

I would encourage any student or young person who has considered doing an internship to avail themselves of this great experience and see our government at work.

One of many memorable moments was the speech Secretary of State Colin Powell gave to all the interns in the House Chamber.

Standing in the historic chamber, the secretary of state filled the room with his wisdom and insight.

He exhorted us all to public service whether as volunteer coaches, school board members, working with Boys & Girls clubs, ROTC, military service, or whatever.

His example of how one person can make his or her community a better place to live was extremely inspirational.

Congressman Bonner and Sen. Sessions and their staffs are public servants of the highest order. Alabama is lucky to have them representing us.

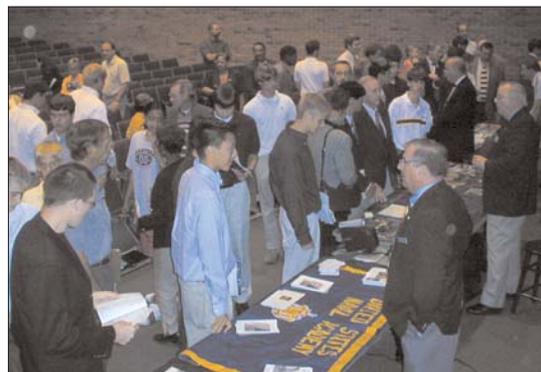
I would echo Colin Powell's words and encourage Mobilians to be involved — to make Mobile a better community, Alabama a better state and our country a better nation.

Thanks again to our representatives for their tireless and selfless work and for helping me understand the importance of public service.

BRAD ISRAEL, Mobile

ACADEMY NIGHT 2003 BIG SUCCESS

Academy Night 2003 was a success! We had a wonderful turnout, and it was encouraging to see so many young people in attendance. The program was enjoyable and informative as representatives from each academy presented information on their respective institutions. Thank you to all who attended the program. If you missed the program and would like more information on Congressional nominations, please contact Dixie Patrick in my Mobile office at 1-800-288-USA1, and we will be glad to provide you with an application.



Students, parents, and college counselors all had an opportunity to visit with the academy representatives one-on-one to ask questions about their respective institutions.



MISS ALABAMA VISITS CAPITOL HILL

Recently, I was honored to host Miss Alabama 2003, Catherine Crosby, during her visit to our nation's capital. Catherine, a native of Brewton, Alabama, was in Washington to meet with members of the Alabama congressional delegation and discuss her platform of Americans' civic responsibility to vote. She is a great representative for Alabama and deserves our congratulations for the job she is doing.



Pictured with me from left to right: Nancy Pack; Lauren Hastings; Paige Robertson; Miss Alabama, Catherine Crosby; Jamo Ladd; and Susan Swift.