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LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2003

- ▶ The House is working to finish the 13 annual appropriations bills before the new fiscal year, October 1. We passed final two bills - Transportation/Treasury and District of Columbia. A major issue in the Transportation/Treasury bill involved passage of three amendments expanding travel and remittances to Cuba. In the D.C. bill, the key vote was on an amendment approving education vouchers to allow D.C. school children to attend private and parochial schools — an amendment that passed by one vote.
- ▶ The House passed the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, a bill to prevent iden-

tity theft, improve resolution of consumer disputes, improve the accuracy of consumer records, and make improvements in the use of, and consumer access to, credit information.

- ▶ In my Committee on Science, we kicked off an eight-week hearing schedule into the Shuttle *Columbia* tragedy and the report of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB), including testimony from Admiral Harold Gehman, chairman of the CAIB, and Sean O'Keefe, NASA Administrator.
- ▶ On September 11, a joint House-Senate ceremony commemorated the second anniversary of the attacks against our nation.

ACADEMY NIGHT OCT. 6

My first Academy Night will be held on Monday, October 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the UMS-Wright Preparatory School Dunlap Auditorium located at 65 North Mobile Street in Mobile. All interested students, parents and school counselors are invited to attend.

A representative from each military academy will be on hand to speak about their respective institutions. There will also be an opportunity for students to talk one-on-one with the representatives after the formal program.

If you would like additional information, please contact Dixie Patrick in my office at 251-690-2811 or 1-800-288-8711.

FOURTEEN TOWN MEETINGS HELD IN AUGUST

During the August recess, I held 14 town meetings throughout the First District. As you know, town hall meetings give me a chance to hear what issues are on your mind and get your suggestions on how to fix many of the problems facing our state and country today.

Naturally, some of the biggest topics of conversation were ones that have been major stories in the news recently — funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, an overhaul of the Medicare system and a prescription drug benefit, the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and the issue of gun ownership and gun rights.



I was so pleased to have students from Jackson High School attend my town meeting in Jackson. "Go Aggies!"

From the mailbox...

Dear Sir:

There is no way I can express the gratitude for your help with our problem with Mom's Social Security. My Mother and our family will always be grateful for your assistance. I don't think the problem would have received any attention without your help. Again our most heartfelt thanks. Problem solved.

Sincerely, A Baldwin County constituent, June 17, 2003

1ST DISTRICT BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH Alabama River Newsprint

I recently had the privilege of touring **Alabama River Newsprint** in Perdue Hill in Monroe County. ARN is a 50/50 joint venture with Abitibi-Consolidated and Parsons & Whittemore.

Abitibi-Consolidated is a global leader in newsprint, and uncoated groundwood papers (value-added papers) with ownership interests in 27 paper mills in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Asia.

Parsons & Whittemore is one of the world's largest producers of market pulp, the raw material used in papermaking. It is also a supplier of bleached kraft pulp, which is used to make paper bags, butcher wrap, newsprint, strong bond and ledger paper, and tissue. Parsons & Whittemore has pulp mills in Alabama and in Canada.

ARN currently employs 180 individuals from south Alabama. Thank you for choosing the First District of Alabama to call home!