

# Jo Bonner



## THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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### BUDGET PROCESS MOVES FORWARD



On March 17th, both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed their respective budget resolutions. The House adopted its version of a budget by a 218-214 vote with the Senate approving its budget, just hours later, by a 51-49 vote. As a member of the House Budget Committee, I was glad to have an opportunity to work on this important legislation in its early stages. I was just as proud to vote for the final House version which, if enacted, would provide tax relief, spending restraint, and reduction of the federal deficit.

The House and Senate now sit in conference to negotiate the differences between the chambers' measures. The House budget provides for \$69 billion in cuts to mandatory programs over five years and the Senate version would instruct appropriators to find \$17 billion in savings through a reconciliation process.

Upon resolution of the chambers' differences, the Appropriations Committees will determine where such savings may be made. While I do not sit on the House Appropriations Committee, I do look forward to participating in the review of the committee's proposals when the eleven House appropriations bills proceed to the House floor, possibly in mid-summer.



*I recently had the pleasure of visiting with Daphne Middle School students in an assembly. Afterwards, Principal Anthony Sampson and I had lunch with the 8th graders.*

### USA BREAKS GROUND ON CANCER TREATMENT CENTER



*On Monday, April 11, I was honored to be among the many guests in attendance at the official groundbreaking for the new University of South Alabama Cancer Treatment Center. When completed, this \$120 million facility will provide state-of-the-art research facilities and treatment for cancer patients and will lead to more than 700 high-paying jobs in south Alabama. The groundbreaking brings the region one step closer to realizing the vision of University President Gordon Moulton and everyone at USA of providing the most up-to-date and accessible cancer treatment facilities in the country. The groundbreaking ceremony included local community leaders, elected officials, representatives from state government, my colleagues from the United States Congress, and me.*

## TWENTY TOWN MEETINGS HELD IN MARCH



During the third week of March, my staff and I continued our tradition of holding town hall meetings throughout the First District with our latest series of 20 events. These meetings, held in all six counties of the First District, included a joint Clarke County meeting with one of my colleagues from the Alabama delegation, Congressman Artur Davis. The turnout at each meeting was tremendous, and I appreciate everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to be in attendance. While these meetings are an excellent way for me to hear directly from you your thoughts on important issues of the day, they are by no means the only way to reach me. If you are having a problem cutting through the red tape on a claim for benefits, or if you simply wish to make your views known on some of the news coming out of our nation's capital, feel free to call, e-mail, or write to my office in Washington, Mobile, or Baldwin County.



*I enjoyed seeing my good friend, State Representative Skippy White, at our Pollard Town Hall meeting.*



*Having just returned home from active duty in Iraq, SPC Charles Harris took a few minutes to visit with me at our Tillman's Corner meeting.*

## From the mailbox...

*Dear Congressman Jo Bonner,*

*To say thank you is way too little. On January 24, the Board of Appeals granted me 100% service connected disability. This ends a 7 and 1/2 year battle. No Veteran should have to go through what I did or wait this long. Matt Rhodes fought for me. The meeting with my Congressman I will never forget. When you and Matt went and got yourselves promoted Kay fought as hard as anybody could. This system needs fixing. I don't have the answer. But there are way too many levels and hurdles you have to go through.*

*I would never have gotten through the process without all of your staff.*

*Mr. Congressman, these are special people, but I am sure you know this.*

*All I can give you is my thanks. My family thanks you .*

*Thank you,  
A satisfied veteran  
February 12, 2005*



## TREATS FOR TROOPS CREATES SMILES

The 2nd annual Treats for Troops was held March 4-6 at Colonial Bel Air Mall. This event offers families and friends an opportunity to purchase Girl Scout cookies to be shipped to their loved ones serving on active duty in our U.S. military. Thank you to all those who made this event possible.

Below is an email message from a U.S. Marine whose unit recently received a box of cookies:

*My name is Timothy Craft and I just received a box of Girl Scout cookies and I just wanted to say thank you very much. I can tell you put a lot of time and effort into the boxes because of all the notes on each box, which by the way was a big hit and put a smile on all the faces of the Marines who ate them. I am currently deployed in Afghanistan and I am in the United States Marine Corps and on behalf of all all the Marines out here thank you. We would all like to hear from you. And thank you again for the cookies.*

*Sincerely  
Timothy Craft  
United States Marine Corps*