

# Jo Bonner



## THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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### SUPPORTING REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

I voted against Speaker Nancy Pelosi's big government health care bill which, unfortunately, passed the House on November 7.

This bill raises taxes by hundreds of billions of dollars, hides deficit spending with dubious accounting gimmicks, and vastly expands the federal government's scope and size in every aspect of our daily lives.

Among other things, this bill will pile crushing mandates on small business and decimate the popular Medicare Advantage program, which millions of seniors depend on. Moreover, it will be the mother of all unfunded mandates on state budgets which are already stretched thin.

I believe most Alabamians want to preserve what's best about our health care while lowering costs and improving access.

That's why I supported the Republican substitute legislation. It would lower costs in both the short term and the long term, honoring our pledge for fiscal responsibility while broadening access to quality health care through reduced costs and more competition.

The speaker and the Senate majority leader have both committed to passing a final health care bill by the end of December. The outcome remains uncertain as the speaker's health care vote lacked the strength of a mandate, and conservatives in both houses will continue to oppose this big government expansion.

Rest assured, I will remain strongly against any such effort to restrict Americans' health care quality and choice. Instead, I will continue to support targeted health care reforms which preserve your choice of health care options and doctors, expand access to care and reduce cost – all without higher taxes or government mandates.

### CELEBRATING VETERANS' DAY



*This Veterans Day I attended special November 11 events in Daphne and Atmore. Above, after speaking at the Daphne Veterans Day ceremony, I visited with Daphne Mayor Fred Small and members of the local Cub Scout Pack 31 at City Hall. Pictured with their Cubmaster, Andrew Schellhase, are from left to right, Nathaniel LeFever, Conner Schwab, Alex Baker, Forest Sanford, Austin Schellhase, and Grant Schellhase. I was also pleased to join Atmore's Veterans' Day program. I met local veterans and*



## TANKER UPDATE



*In late October, I joined other members of the Alabama congressional delegation at a press conference in the U.S. Capitol concerning the Air Force's new aerial tanker design. The Air Force is expected to release its final tanker "Request for Proposal" soon.*

The long delayed process to replace the nation's aging aerial refueling fleet was thought to have finally turned a corner this fall when the Air Force announced its draft guidelines for a new aircraft design.

Unfortunately, the new aerial tanker blueprint ignores currently available aircraft technology and sacrifices mission capability. This is a blow to our military, who have supported efforts to modernize the nation's 50-year-old aerial tanker fleet.

I joined other members of the Alabama Congressional delegation in rejecting the Air Force's draft "Request for Proposal" and urging the Pentagon to return to the drawing board. The Air Force is expected to release its final Request for Proposal in January.

In 2005, southwest Alabama emerged as a contender site to manufacture a new aerial tanker when the North American division of the European Aeronautics Defence and Space Company (EADS) chose to locate its aerospace engineering center and tanker production facility at Brookley Field. Northrop Grumman soon teamed up with EADS to build a new tanker.

In February 2008, when the new Northrop Grumman/EADS partnership was selected as the winner, the decision was hailed as a victory for the Air Force which stood to gain from the significantly enhanced capabilities of the new aircraft design.

Unfortunately, that forward movement was halted soon after when competitor Boeing protested the tanker contract award, and months later, the Pentagon terminated the competition and reset the bidding process.

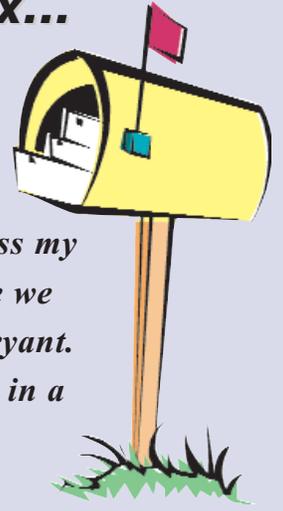
For years, combatant commanders have been calling for the rapid deployment of a modern and more versatile tanker fleet that will accommodate future military aircraft and more challenging missions.

Instead of shopping for the best aerial tanker for our military, the Air Force's recent design request has substantially lowered the bar and further set back the development of a replacement.

If Defense Secretary Gates is ready to restore the focus on quality, our southwest Alabama workers are ready to deliver an aerial tanker that will serve our nation's defenders well.

## From the mailbox...

*Dear Congressman Bonner,  
Friends and I visited your Washington office in October, and I want to express my appreciation for the welcome we were given by Ms. Errical Bryant. She made us feel "at home," in a most gracious way. We sincerely appreciated that and feel that she exemplified the best of the American way.*



*She showed us around, asked us where we wanted to take pictures, lined up both the White House Tour and the Capitol Tour, and genuinely seemed to care about our trip to Washington, D.C. Please convey our appreciation; she is a good representative for you to your constituents.*

*Sincerely yours,  
A First District constituent*



*Construction continues on the first of two of ThyssenKrupp Steel USA's planned steel processing facilities in Calvert, Alabama. When completed, the combined \$4.65 million project will employ 2,000 workers. Company officials anticipate operations will begin in the spring of 2010. ThyssenKrupp Steel USA President and Chief Executive Officer, Chris Lackinger, and I reviewed construction progress during a site visit in October.*