CONGRESSMAN

Jo Bonner

THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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Dedicating Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery

I joined VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Steve Muro; Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, Retired Rear Admiral Clyde Marsh; and other officials in dedicating the long-awaited Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery on December 7.

On December 7, 2012, I was honored to join with local, state and federal officials in dedicating the long-awaited Alabama State Veterans Cemetery near Spanish Fort.

The first of its kind in our state, the grounds of this new cemetery are truly a magnificent and peaceful final resting place for Alabama veterans. Built to national veterans' cemetery standards, the 120-acre site will be state-owned and operated. Most importantly, the new cemetery is reserved for our South Alabama veterans' community.

The new cemetery was literally 50 years in the making. In 1962, the Mobile National Cemetery, which was established at end of the Civil War, ran out of space and was closed to interments. For a half century South Alabama veterans have had to seek burial arrangements in northern Alabama or out of state. This presented an undue burden to local veterans and their families.

In 2009, State Rep. Randy Davis, R-Daphne, with the support of the Mobile and Baldwin County delegations, was successful in getting the Alabama Legislature to approve a bill to create the new local veterans cemetery and former Governor Bob Riley signed the legislation into law. Equally

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House Passes No Budget, No Pay Act

This month, the House passed the "No Budget, No Pay Act" to force Senate Democrats to finally pass a budget. I supported this legislation which withholds the pay of Congress if it doesn't pass a budget by April 15.

Why is this important? The House and Senate are each required by law to pass a federal budget each year. Without a budget framework passing each chamber, there is less control over federal spending and the result is inefficient governing, which is just what we have witnessed over the last four years.

The last time the Senate fulfilled its statutory obligation to pass a federal budget a barrel of crude oil was $51 and Barack Obama was just sworn in to his first term. While it has been 1,365 days since the Democrat Senate passed a budget, Republicans have passed budgets for each of the two years we have controlled the House, the most recent of which called for a $4 trillion reduction in federal spending over a decade.

The Senate must show the American people it understands the seriousness of the debt crisis facing our nation and is willing to put a plan on paper for everyone to review.

The House has made clear that there will be no long-term increase in the federal ability to borrow money unless Congress (both the House and Senate) first agree to substantial cuts in federal spending.

The No Budget, No Pay Act also delays the House and Senate debate over the long-term debt ceiling by three months to allow both to chambers to pass their own budgets and go on record about future spending.

Before there is any decision over a long-term debt limit increase, budgets should first be passed that provide a framework to control reckless Washington spending. If hardworking American families and small businesses have to run on a budget, Washington should too.

Alabama's First Congressional District — Baldwin, Clarke, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe and Washington Counties

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