

were once like strangers in the mall to me are now the familiar faces of friends I pass daily in the hallway.

They are the faces of Nakeidra Brown and Brittney Martin arguing with Gordon Nichols and me in Algebra. They are the many happy faces of Lashae Powers defending me in SGA meetings. They are the ever-frustrated faces of Katie Coon, adamantly insisting that she and I are not related. And they are the almost indistinguishable, but always smiling, faces of the Forney twins.

And these faces will remain familiar long after this commencement exercise is over. Because the bonds that exist between us are not only the bonds of classmates, they are the bonds of friends, and they will endure.

They will endure because they have been forged in a place where everyone looks out for their neighbors, in a town that respects traditional values, by people who cherish family and friendship. Growing up in Atmore, we may not have had easy access to Wal Mart or Starbucks, but we have had each other. That, my friends, has made all the difference.

From this moment, we will all go down different paths: some of us will go on to college, others will enter the workforce, and some will start families. Yet, as graduates, we are now all adults in the world's greatest and most democratic country. As such, we have both an opportunity to make a difference and a responsibility to make a contribution.

Regardless of where we end up, there will be fatherless children in need of mentors and hungry people in need of food. These needs belong not just to individuals, but to the entire nation. And as President John Fitzgerald Kennedy once said, by lending a helping hand to those people, we serve not only our fellow countrymen, but also our country.

Our record at ECHS gives me faith in our ability to live up to that standard of service. In our four years here, we have had three principles and five assistant principals. In these periods of transition, students have had to step forward and carry the mantle of leadership. I am confident that we leave behind a dedicated team with Mr. Means, Mrs. Shuford, and Mr. Lanier, but I am also proud to say future students at this school will benefit from what the Class of 2009 accomplished, from saving the newspaper to starting the scholars' bowl team to reinvigorating our athletic programs.

However, the difficult tasks that come with significant roles in society are much more consequential and much more trying. Thankfully, some of our classmates are already rising nobly to those challenges. Tonight, I want to ask Hierry Carter, Cortina James, Thomas Johnson, and Wade Johnson to stand.

As the rest of us enjoy our newfound freedom as graduates, these members of the Class of 2009 have chosen to serve as the guardians of that freedom in perhaps distant and dark corners of the world. They have chosen to join the United States Military. They deserve our respect, our admiration, and our applause. Thank you.

As we go forward, let us remember with gratitude these brave individuals. Let their willingness to sacrifice selflessly for a cause greater than themselves inspire us all. And let us all remember that God put us in this place in history, at this moment in time, because He trusted no other generation with the charges that are already confronting us. And it is in God's glory that we must heed the call of duty to defend our freedoms, preserve our values, and maintain our way of life. So that when we are all long gone and the history of this generation is written, it

can be said that the graduates of the ECHS Class of 2009 were men and women of integrity, who did not give into the false choices and pretexts that so often corrupt our way of thinking, bow to the forces of mediocrity that so often restrain our true potential, or enslave ourselves to the prejudices and stereotypes that have for years crippled our society.

Let it be said that we, the Class of 2009, never forgot the lessons learned growing up here, in Atmore. That we, the Class of 2009, never forgot the people—moms and dads, teachers and administrators, pastors and friends and grandparents—who raised us. That we never forgot the importance of service or the significance of being Americans. That we never forgot our purpose, and worked tirelessly to make sure our purpose was fulfilled. Thank you. May God bless you and may God bless this honorable class.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
SMALL BUSINESS WEEK: MAY 17–
MAY 23

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, over the last decade, small businesses have created 70 percent of our new jobs, and they are responsible for half of all the jobs in our nation's workforce. In fact, in my home State of Maryland, more than 500,000 small businesses provide our State with more jobs than any other source—except the federal government.

This job creating potential is even more important during economic downturns like the current one. It is interesting to note that, despite declines in corporate America, the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well. Every month, 400,000 new businesses start up across the country. For these reasons, providing small businesses with the tools they need to grow and thrive again will be critical to the nation's overall economic recovery. It is with this knowledge and appreciation that I proudly express my support for President Obama's declaration of May 17–May 23 as National Small Business Week.

As a former small business owner for nearly 20 years, I know first-hand that one of the most pressing challenges facing small businesses is access to affordable credit and capital. I know how hard it can be to meet one's payroll, day after day and week after week. I also know what it is like to be turned down for the business loan that you desperately need (and deserve)—even while other less qualified competitors somehow receive that essential capital support.

In my thirteen years in the U.S. House of Representatives, I have supported efforts that have uplifted the small business community—and 2009 has been another marquee year. During National Small Business Week, the House passed a number of bills aimed at providing business owners with the requisite tools. H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009 would provide critical resources to help businesses grow and adapt. Specifically, it creates a grant program designed to assist small firms in securing capital, supplementing the new small business

lending generated by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, which was signed into law by President Obama in February 2009.

These entrepreneurial development programs are a wise investment in our economy. It is estimated that for every \$1 spent on these programs, there is a \$2.87 return to the Treasury—and these programs have helped to create 73,000 jobs in 2008 alone.

As I close, I will also take this opportunity to align myself with the vision expressed by President Obama, who recently stated that “it is imperative that we do all we can to celebrate the achievements of small business owners and encourage the creation of new businesses.”

Americans are exploring new ways to conduct business, and small business owners are an invaluable resource in this national effort. They are the real heroes of American industry—and May 17–May 23 is deservedly theirs.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER H.
MOFFITT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Christopher H. Moffitt, an automobile dealer and resident of Boone, Iowa.

Christopher, president of Moffitt's Ford Lincoln Mercury, was recently nominated for the 2009 TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award sponsored by TIME Magazine and Goodyear Tire. Christopher was nominated by Gary W. Thomas, President of the Iowa Automobile Dealers Association, and recently was honored at the National Automobile Dealers Association Convention & Exposition in New Orleans. The TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award is one of the auto industry's most prestigious awards, recognizing both success in auto sales and outstanding community service.

Christopher is a third generation family dealer who owns a dealership that was first opened by his grandfather over 81 years ago. He began washing cars at the dealership at age 13, and while attending college at Iowa State University, he began selling cars part-time before becoming a full time sales manager after graduating in 1987.

In addition to his dedicated service at the dealership, Christopher has spent considerable time giving back to the community. From 1993–2000, Christopher was chairman of Good Connections, an organization that employed mentally and physically challenged individuals. He also received a YMCA Leadership Award after playing a pivotal role in reopening the Boone County Family YMCA in 2005 while serving as board chairman. The location had closed in the 1990's but is now growing and serving all of Boone County.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Christopher Moffitt for his nomination for TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year, and thank him for his dedicated community service efforts. It is an honor to represent Christopher in Congress, and I wish him and his family happiness and success in the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MAYOR C.W. SKIDMORE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Saraland and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor C.W. Skidmore and pay tribute to his memory.

Mayor Skidmore, known to his many friends as "Bill," was a native of Russellville and longtime resident of Saraland. He served as a city councilman from 1957, when Saraland was incorporated, until 1960. In 1964, he was elected mayor and served two terms.

Bill set out to be the mayor of Saraland with the intention of changing the reputation the city had received after the murder of its first mayor. During his time serving as mayor, Bill also focused on commercial and residential growth, as well as the development of city services.

When Saraland celebrated its 50th anniversary, Mayor Skidmore was honored. The city also named a football park on Norton Avenue in his honor. In addition to a lifetime of public service, Mayor Skidmore owned and operated Skidmore Oil Company and Skidmore Construction. He also served on the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Mayor Skidmore will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Took; his children, Billy and his wife Sheila, Mary and her husband Bruce, and Tammie and her husband Rick; his 13 grandchildren; and his great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING JOHN BRENNEMAN

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize John Brennenman, an outstanding naturalist and public servant from the 12th Congressional District of Florida. John has worked tirelessly for the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and Imperial Polk County for 30 years. His devotion to improving local water quality and educating lakefront homeowners is evident through his continuing commitment to serve the public with excellence and integrity.

John's academic achievements have shaped his career in water management. He earned both his B.S. in Agriculture and his Masters of Agricultural Management and Resource Development from the University of Florida. He is also a certified instructor for the Florida Master Naturalist Program Wetland, Coastal and Upland Modules. With this certification, he actively assists rural pond owners in becoming good stewards of their water property. He has taught them how to manage surface waters and fisheries to enhance the aesthetics of their pond, while maintaining sound water quality.

John has an obvious passion for educating the public and is responsible for developing a program to educate lakefront residents entitled, "Living at the Lake." This primer has been used extensively for Florida's lakefront homeowners and by others interested in central Florida's lake resources. John also coordinates the Polk County Extension Water School. This program is designed to provide local officials with valuable information to prepare them for addressing important water issues and policies.

John has also molded young minds and shaped lives through his work as a 4-H Agent. For many years, John chaperoned trips to 4-H Congress and 4-H Camps where he taught courses, led fishing expeditions and counseled young people on character and values. His own example is what provides the best lesson for a life of service, love, and faith. I say this as one who benefited from his mentoring.

John's experience and influence reaches beyond Polk County lines. For ten years, John worked to educate businesses and residents through the natural resource education program as a multi-county agent. Additionally, John has worked with volunteers associated with the University of Florida's LAKEWATCH program which was designed to monitor water quality in local lakes. As a result of John's efforts, data was collected from local lakes on a monthly basis and entered into an extensive database used for profiling the local waterscape.

John and his wife, Terri, have been married for almost 36 years. They have one daughter, Emily, and three sons Jacob, Adam, and Joseph. When not tending to his work or bragging about his grandkids, John is a Sunday school teacher and Deacon at the First Baptist Church at the Mall.

GLOBAL WARMING PETITION
SIGNED BY 31,478 SCIENTISTS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, before voting on the "cap-and-trade" legislation, my colleagues should consider the views expressed in the following petition that has been signed by 31,478 American scientists:

"We urge the United States government to reject the global warming agreement that was written in Kyoto, Japan in December, 1997, and any other similar proposals. The proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind.

There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth."

Circulated through the mail by a distinguished group of American physical scientists

and supported by a definitive review of the peer-reviewed scientific literature, this may be the strongest and most widely supported statement on this subject that has been made by the scientific community. A state-by-state listing of the signers, which include 9,029 men and women with PhD degrees, a listing of their academic specialties, and a peer-reviewed summary of the science on this subject are available at www.petitionproject.org.

The peer-reviewed summary, "Environmental Effects of Increased Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide" by A. B. Robinson, N. E. Robinson, and W. Soon includes 132 references to the scientific literature and was circulated with the petition.

Signers of this petition include 3,803 with specific training in atmospheric, earth, and environmental sciences. All 31,478 of the signers have the necessary training in physics, chemistry, and mathematics to understand and evaluate the scientific data relevant to the human-caused global warming hypothesis and to the effects of human activities upon environmental quality.

In a letter circulated with this petition, Frederick Seitz—past President of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, President Emeritus of Rockefeller University, and recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from 32 universities throughout the world—wrote:

"The United States is very close to adopting an international agreement that would ration the use of energy and of technologies that depend upon coal, oil, and natural gas and some other organic compounds.

This treaty is, in our opinion, based upon flawed ideas. Research data on climate change do not show that human use of hydrocarbons is harmful. To the contrary, there is good evidence that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide is environmentally helpful.

The proposed agreement we have very negative effects upon the technology of nations throughout the world; especially those that are currently attempting to lift from poverty and provide opportunities to the over 4 billion people in technologically underdeveloped countries.

It is especially important for America to hear from its citizens who have the training necessary to evaluate the relevant data and offer sound advice."

We urge you to sign and return the enclosed petition card. If you would like more cards for use by your colleagues, these will be sent."

Madam Speaker, at a time when our nation is faced with a severe shortage of domestically produced energy and a serious economic contraction; we should be reducing the taxation and regulation that plagues our energy-producing industries.

Yet, we will soon be considering so-called "cap and trade" legislation that would increase the taxation and regulation of our energy industries. "Cap and trade" will do at least as much, if not more, damage to the economy as the treaty referred by Professor Seitz! This legislation is being supported by the claims of "global warming" and "climate change" advocates—claims that, as demonstrated by the 31,477 signatures to Professor Seitz' petition, many American scientists believe is disproved by extensive experimental and observational work.

It is time that we look beyond those few who seek increased taxation and increased