



**Experiencing Washington**

Hundreds of young people from throughout Southeast Alabama visited Washington during 2001 to get a first-hand look at their federal government in action. I always look forward to discussing the workings of Congress with these civic-minded students who never fail to leave the Capitol with a greater respect for our democracy. Above, I spoke with the students of Providence Christian School of Dothan.

*Alabama Defense Jobs (continued from page 3)*

**UH-60L Blackhawk Helicopters**

★ \$277 million for 22 new UH-60L Blackhawks for the Army National Guard [Composite parts produced and assembled at GKN Tallassee and Montgomery]

**Javelin Anti-Tank Missiles**

★ \$415 million for 4,139 Javelin missiles [Partial production by Lockheed Martin in Pike County]

**Hellfire Missiles**

★ \$261 million for 2,450 Hellfire missiles to be used by the Army and Marine Corps [Partial production by Lockheed Martin in Pike County]

**Honoring Our Commitment to America's Veterans**

*....Veterans Funding Increases and Concurrent Receipt Authorized*

America's 26 million veterans saw an enhancement in their health and education benefits last year during the first session of the 107th Congress. This follows on the heels of steady increases in VA spending every year since I came to Congress in 1993.

**Veterans Funding Increases**

The new 2002 VA budget calls for \$51.13 billion, an increase of \$4.22 billion over 2001. As a matter of fact, total veterans funding has shown constant growth: \$820 million in 1994, \$400 million in 1995, \$880 million in 1996, \$2.2 billion in 1997, \$2.08 billion in 1998, \$220 million in 1999, \$1.63 billion in 2000, and \$2.65 billion in 2001.

That's not all. For the last five years Congress has also ramped up increases in VA health care. Between 1997 and 2001, Congress provided \$93 billion for VA health care – the most ever during any five-year period and \$16.3 billion more than the previous five years.

In 2002, overall VA health care funding will increase by \$1.05 billion to a level of \$21.3 billion, making more money available for health care research. What's more, we've also greatly expanded the Montgomery GI Bill college benefit for qualified veterans from \$24,192 to \$35,460 – a 46 percent increase. National Guard and Reservists called up to active duty would also be eligible for GI Bill benefits.

**Concurrent Receipt**

I was pleased to support the veterans' program increases, and also vote for the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act which was signed into law in December. This legislation authorizes expanded benefits to disabled retired military. Currently, disabled military retirees have to choose between their retirement or disability benefits.

Furthermore, this month I signed letters to President Bush and to the Chairman and Ranking member of the House Budget Committee asking that they provide full funding for concurrent receipt benefits as Congress begins drafting of the 2003 federal budget.

**Alabama Gets a Voice on the House Intelligence Committee**

*....Seat of Key Importance in War on Terrorism*

Last month, I was pleased to be appointed by House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, R-Illinois, to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The Speaker made the announcement before the full House on January 23. The panel oversees defense and national security intelligence matters.

At a time when President Bush says our war against terrorism will be won on intelligence, this new position will afford Alabama a greater role in the decision-making process involving our national security – both at home and abroad.

I am currently a senior member of the House Armed Services and House Agriculture Committees, ranking eighth on both. I am also a senior member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, ranking fourth overall.

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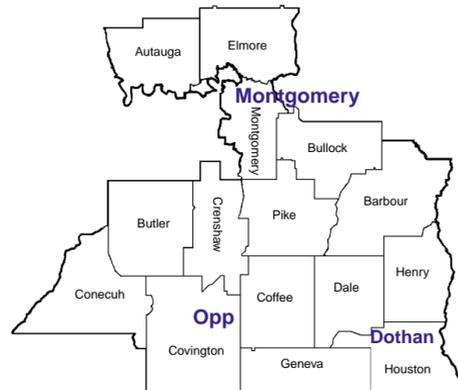
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Visit My Official House Website at <http://www.house.gov/everett/>

**Alabama's Second District**



**Fighting for Southeast Alabama ... and YOU!**

**Congressman Terry**

**EVERETT**

**WASHINGTON UPDATE**



**Second Congressional District**

**Winter 2002**

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**New Farm Bill**

The House passes a new 10-year bill impacting Alabama farmers

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Congress steps in to ensure the diminishing water supply of Wiregrass is strengthened

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Southeast Alabama defense workers will benefit from new Pentagon budget

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**Funds Increase**

Funds for vital veterans healthcare, compensation, and education increase in the new VA budget

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**A Nation at War Against Terrorism**

After the tragic events of September 11, I joined with a majority of the Congress to give support to homeland efforts to recover from the terrorist attacks as well as to authorize full military action overseas in defense of our freedom.

**Homeland Recovery**

On September 14, the full House voted for the 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery and Response to Terrorist Attacks. This legislation appropriated \$40 billion in emergency spending for the homeland recovery effort in New York, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania, and also provided resources for the terror investigation and to immediately strengthen our national security.

**Use of Military Force**

Also on September 14, the House passed a resolution authorizing the President to use the US Armed Forces against those responsible for the recent attacks on our country. The resolution gives the President the authority to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the September 11 terrorist attacks.

**Penalties for Bioterrorism**

On October 23, the full House passed the Bioterrorism Enforcement Act of 2001. This legislation sets criminal penalties for the unsafe and illegal possession or transfer of certain biological agents and toxins. It also makes it a crime for individuals who are legally licensed to possess such materials to handle them in a reckless disregard for public health and safety.



**Record Tax Relief for Americans**

2001 was a banner year for tax relief for American workers and their families. Working with the White House, Congress passed the biggest tax reduction for Americans in a generation. I was pleased to support the following which are now law:

**Across-the-Board Tax Rate Reduction** for all income groups. Ensures that no one should pay more than one-third of their income to the IRS.

**Marriage Penalty Repeal** for all married couples. It stops the unfair tax that couples pay for just saying "I do". Some 425,000 Alabama couples will benefit.

**Doubling the Child Tax Credit** to \$1000 to allow families more money to spend, save or use for their children's needs.

**Education Savings Account Contributions Increase** for K-12 public and private education allowing parents to invest up to \$2,000 annually with tax-free withdrawals to pay for both K-12 education expenses and college tuition.

Dear Friends,

Continued Anthrax screening of incoming mail has resulted in a major slow-down of mail deliveries to the U.S. House and Senate office buildings in Washington, DC.

To ensure that inquiries are received in a timely manner, constituents wishing to contact my Washington office should use the phone, fax, or email instead of regular mail.

Alternatively, you may contact any of my three Alabama offices by US mail, or by telephone or personal visit.

My Washington office telephone is (202) 225-2901, fax is (202) 225-8913 and email is <terry.everett@mail.house.gov>.

For information on how to contact any of the three Second Congressional District offices, please refer to the back of this newsletter.

*Terry Everett*



**A Stronger National Defense**

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I support President Bush's efforts to strengthen and modernize our military. Whenever the opportunity has arisen, including aboard Air Force One last Spring, I have urged the President to focus attention on adequate military training, readiness and high-tech weaponry, as well as new personnel housing and increased pay – issues which are also of keen importance to our military at Fort Rucker and Maxwell-Gunter. The new 2002 defense budget increases military readiness and training funding by nearly \$10 billion, offers a 5-to-10 percent payraise for our hard-working military personnel, and includes \$80.8 million for Maxwell-Gunter, Fort Rucker, and Guard construction projects. See Pg. 3 for more details.



### Improving Our Airports

\$11.9 million in federal airport improvement funds approved in 2000 began arriving in Alabama last year including \$2 million to begin construction of a new terminal at Dothan Regional Airport and \$6 million for terminal expansion at Montgomery's Dannelly Field. 2001 also witnessed millions in FAA and EDA airport improvement grants awarded to Southeast Alabama airports including Dothan, Troy and Greenville. Above, I attended the ground-breaking last year of the new terminal for Dothan Regional Airport.

## Southeast Alabama Water Supply Declining

....Federal Help is On the Way



Recent studies conclude that within a few years groundwater reserves near our major Wiregrass cities will begin to dry up and these communities will face a critical situation. This is no surprise to area farmers and those who have suffered through multiple years of droughts in Southeast Alabama. A stable water supply is absolutely vital to our economy and our future.

I have joined with state and local leaders and the Choctawhatchee, Pea, and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority in seeking a solution – the construction of a 2,500-acre water reservoir to provide a reliable and long-term source of water for the area. I secured \$150,000 in preliminary funds for a reservoir study in the 2002 Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report which passed into law late last year.

Currently, the cities of Dothan, Enterprise, and Ozark draw approximately 24 to 32 million gallons a day from groundwater sources. This represents 40 to 53 percent of the entire water drawn by communities in the 10-county Wiregrass area. At the same time, Dothan has seen a 220-foot decline in the water level of its major aquifer, and Enterprise experienced a half-foot-a-day drop in water levels during last April and May. Drilling more wells will not solve the problem.

A regional strategy to develop a long-term and dependable water supply to ensure that all our communities are adequately protected is the right course of action. The construction of a regional reservoir is this strategy and the federal funding lays the groundwork for the reservoir by beginning the process.

## New Defense Budget Continues Commitment to Southeast Alabama Military Bases and Defense Jobs

The passage of the 2002 Defense Authorization Act in December was good news for Alabama military base and defense plant workers. The new defense budget includes \$80.8 million for Maxwell-Gunter/Fort Rucker/Guard construction in 2002 and \$953 million in new national weapons systems work also impacting local defense workers.

This legislation continues the on-going modernization and expansion of educational facilities at Maxwell-Gunter, while addressing Fort Rucker's need for additional TH-67 aircraft for basic helicopter training. The new budget also provides funding to develop new Army Aviation Institutional Training Simulators for future use at Fort Rucker, while directly funding a new facility to house Fort Rucker's Comanche simulators.

This new defense authorization bill also funds important infrastructure and storage facilities for Maxwell/Gunter and Fort Rucker, while giving a green light to some \$953 million in new missile and helicopter work which will be partially performed at defense plants in Southeast Alabama.

Workers at GKN's Tallassee and Montgomery plants will fabricate and assemble composite parts for 22 new UH-60L Blackhawk helicopters to be used nationwide by the Army National Guard. Meanwhile, Lockheed Martin in Pike County will play a role in the assembly of 4,139 new Javelin anti-tank missiles and 2,450 Hellfire missiles.

As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, I was pleased to serve as a conferee in the final House-Senate writing of the 2002 Defense Authorization Act. Since 1993, I have worked to secure nearly \$250 million in new projects for Maxwell-Gunter and the Guard, as well as \$137 million in new construction and programs at Fort Rucker.

Over the same period, I have worked to approve some \$6 billion in national missile, helicopter and other defense-related procurement which has had a positive effect on the 236 jobs at Pike County's Lockheed Martin, the 645 jobs at GKN in Tallassee and Montgomery, the 115 jobs at Miltope in Montgomery, the 65 jobs at JKM in Eufaula, the 145 jobs at Sikorsky in Troy, and the 150 jobs at US Helicopter in Ozark.



### Tax Breaks and Better Housing for Overseas Military

The living conditions of American military stationed far from home and their families is a key concern of the Bush Administration and of mine. In January, I traveled to South Korea to visit our troops stationed in that East Asian nation in defense of freedom. The hazardous duty of these brave personnel is often overlooked in a time when the war in Afghanistan is garnering most of the headlines. I support the badly-needed modernization of military housing in South Korea and have also cosponsored legislation offering our military stationed in that nation the same hazardous duty tax breaks afforded American uniformed personnel located elsewhere. The just-approved 2002 defense budget includes funding to reduce out-of-pocket military personnel housing costs from 15 percent to 11.4 percent this year and eliminates these costs entirely by 2005.

## Federal Funding Aims to Return the Satsuma Orange to South Alabama Agriculture

In the not so distant past, Alabama agriculture was synonymous with oranges. At the beginning of the 20th century, farmers in the southern part of Alabama had over 18,000 acres of small oranges in cultivation. A town in Mobile County was named for them, and even our beloved state song, penned by Julia S. Tutwiler, celebrates the orange.

In the years since, orange growing lost its appeal in Alabama as frequent cold snaps often plague our state, took their toll on the fragile citrus crop. Those who still grow the small variety of orange known as a "Satsuma" are sold on its tasty, tangerine-like flavor and believe if given a chance the little orange could make a successful comeback.

Nowadays, many of the Alabama Satsumas in cultivation are under the control of the research arm of Auburn University which has been working to develop a hardier variety of the orange to match the south Alabama climate. To aid in this effort to revive the potentially profitable industry in Alabama, I secured \$800,000 in federal funds for Satsuma genetic research as part of the 2002 Agriculture Appropriations Act.

The research, which will be performed in partnership between Auburn and Louisiana State universities, should ultimately provide a new source of income for our farmers as flavorful Alabama-grown Satsumas debut in supermarkets.

## House Passes Historic Farm Bill

....Bill was Needed to Save Alabama Peanut Industry

In October, the US House passed the Farm Security Act of 2001 which includes a new federal peanut title vital to protecting the peanut industry. As chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Specialty Crops and Foreign Agriculture Programs, I oversaw the drafting of the new peanut title of the Farm Bill.

In the face of certain elimination of the peanut program by political opponents coupled with the negative effects of reduced tariffs on foreign peanut imports, the peanut industry came together like never before to forge a new program which will continue to provide a viable safety net for producers.

The new peanut title protects growers and eliminates the political opposition to the peanut program. The new title protects the peanut program by making it operate like other commodity programs while providing compensation to quota holders who would see a phase-out of the current quota system.

Specifically, the new peanut title phases out the quota system over five years while providing quota holders a ten-cent-a-pound a year buy-out for their quota peanuts over the five-year period. Furthermore, the program would be transformed into a market loan structure which guarantees growers a \$350-a-ton market loan payment, while setting the domestic peanut target price at \$480-a-ton, which includes a \$36-a-ton fixed decoupled (AMTA) payment.

Without these changes, our peanut industry would certainly not be able to survive the mounting political opposition on Capitol Hill because of the unique nature of the current quota system. In addition, tariffs on Mexican peanuts are decreasing every year and will vanish in 2008, thus undermining the current quota system.

The passage of a new peanut title finally means a more stable future for our peanut industry which is so vital for the Southeast Alabama economy.

As this newsletter went to press, the US Senate had yet to pass its version of the Farm Bill.



### Economic Development Assistance

2001 witnessed at least \$3.8 million in federal EDA and USDA-RD economic development grants and loans awarded throughout Southeast Alabama, including Pike County and Brundidge, Butler County, Crenshaw County, Geneva County, and Elba. These vital funds play an important role in developing local infrastructure to attract new industry and jobs. In October, I was pleased to attend the presentation of a \$1.5 million grant from EDA for improvements to the new Butler County Industrial Park. (Photo: George Wacha, Greenville Advocate)

### For Southeast Alabama, the 2002 Defense Authorization Act includes:

#### Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base

- ★ \$13.6 million for Squadron Officer School Dormitory
- ★ \$9 million for addition to Squadron Officer School Facility
- ★ \$11.8 million to replace Officer Training School Dormitory

#### Maxwell – Air Force Reserve

- ★ \$9.9 million to replace Maintenance Hangar
- ★ \$7.3 million to replace Fuel Cell Maintenance Facility

#### Fort Rucker

- ★ \$25 million for (15) TH-67 training helicopters
- ★ \$5 million for Army Aviation Institutional Training Simulators
- ★ \$11.4 million for Comanche Simulator Training Facility
- ★ \$6.8 million for Army Materiel Command Parts Warehouse

#### Dothan – Air National Guard

- ★ \$11 million for 280th Air Guard Combat Communications Complex (to be located at Dothan Regional Airport)

*Continued: (See Alabama Defense Jobs, Pg. 4)*

## EVERETT KEY VOTES, 107th Congress, First Session

### YES • Farm Bill (HR 2646)

Ten-year farm program including reformed peanut program  
Passed the House on 10/5/01  
Pending in the U.S. Senate

### YES • Tax Relief Act (HR 1836)

Tax relief including across-the-board tax cut; marriage penalty tax relief; and death tax relief  
Passed the House and Senate on 5/26/01  
Signed into law on 6/7/01

### YES • Defense Budget/Military Pay Raise (S 1438)

Approving Conference Report for 2002 Defense Budget  
Passed the House and Senate on 12/13/01  
Signed into law on 12/28/01

### YES • Ban on Human Cloning (HR 2505)

Legislation banning human cloning in the United States  
Passed the House on 7/31/01  
Pending in the U.S. Senate

### YES • Homeland Recovery (HR 2888)

\$40 billion funding for homeland recovery/security after 9/11 attacks  
Passed the House and Senate on 9/14/01  
Signed into law on 9/18/01

### YES • Energy and Water Appropriations (HR 2311)

\$12.9 million for A-C-F river system dredging benefitting Eufaula area; \$150,000 for Wiregrass regional reservoir study  
Passed by the House and Senate on 11/1/01  
Signed into law on 11/2/01

### YES • Faith Based Initiative (HR 7)

Promotes greater role of charitable organizations in helping the needy  
Passed the House on 7/19/01  
Pending in the U.S. Senate

### YES • Agriculture Assistance (HR 2213)

\$5.5 billion in market and disaster assistance to America's farmers  
Passed the House on 6/26/01; Passed the Senate on 8/3/01  
Signed into law on 8/13/01