

TRIBUTE TO LINDA MARIE JONES

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, this is the Indianapolis Star obituary of Linda Marie Jones who left this world on the 13th day of April last—at least for her. The world should know why she lead the effort for racial integration of a swimming club in Indianapolis.

Linda Jones was Africa-American. Her son and his friends were thoroughly racially integrated.

Years ago her son's friend who was of European descent took her son as a guest to the swimming club. Her son was refused admittance because he was an American of African descent. So the boys went to the nearby river to swim and her son drowned. "All these things she kept within her heart." And on that thirteenth day of April 1996, in the words of my wife, "Linda Marie Jones died of and with a broken heart." She was our loving neighbor. Our hearts go out to her husband, Don, one of the most remarkably successful businessmen of our era. May God have mercy on those who perpetrated this egregious and un-American wrong.

[The Star, Apr. 16, 1996]

LINDA MARIE JONES HELPED INTEGRATE RIVIERA CLUB, BOOSTED CHESS TEAM

Services for Linda Marie Young Jones, 56, Indianapolis, event coordinator for the Indiana Regional Minority Supplier Development Council [IRMSDC], will be at noon April 17 in Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, of which she was a member, with calling there from 10 a.m.

She died April 13.

Most recently, Mrs. Jones worked with her husband, Donald E. Jones, who survives, as event coordinator for IRMSDC. Previously, she founded and co-owned Systems Consultants, and worked for M. W. Jones and Sons Realty Co.

She headed a successful effort to integrate the Riviera Club in 1980 and was instrumental in organizing a rally on Monument Circle in celebration of apartheid opponent Nelson Mandela's release from a South African prison in 1990.

In 1984, Mrs. Jones received recognition from then-Mayor William H. Hudnut III for her leadership in securing sponsorship for the Masters of Disaster grade school chess team.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dwight Jones Memorial Fund in care of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Tabernacle Recreation Fund.

She was a 1983 graduate of Butler University.

Other survivors: grandmother Marie Suggs. Stuart Mortuary is handling arrangements.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER VALLEY AND SOUTHWEST MONTANA HERITAGE AND RECREATION AREA

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two legislative initiatives to designate

locations in Montana as National Heritage areas under the National Heritage Area Partnership Program.

The first bill proposes to establish the Yellowstone River Valley National Heritage Area which will encompass the Yellowstone region from the headwaters of the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone National Park to the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri River in North Dakota. As the last major free-flowing river in the United States, the Yellowstone River Valley is a region steeped in history, rich in cultural diversity and patterned with a western landscape of fertile valleys, high plains and the Rocky Mountains.

The Yellowstone River Valley includes Yellowstone National Park,—a United Nations Education and Scientific Organization World Heritage site due to its importance as a resource with global significance—Fort Union Trading Post, Pompeys Pillar the Lewis and Clark Expedition Trail, the Battle of the Little Big Horn, Northern Pacific Railway Company Line, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, the Huntley Irrigation Project Chief Joseph Trail, the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations and finally the Yellowstone Dam.

The National Heritage Partnership Program will provide a framework which will enable local communities to capitalize on their heritage and expand their economic base. Through collaboration with interpretation, preservation and marketing, communities in the Yellowstone Valley they will have opportunities to form alliances and partnerships among local, State, Federal and private entities. By sharing resources, transcending political boundaries and establishing creative initiatives, citizens in the Yellowstone Valley will have the ability to develop positive social and economic benefits of cultural and recreational tourism.

The second bill proposes to establish the Southwest Montana Heritage and Recreation Area which encompasses the area located along the Continental divide in Southwest Montana and is traversed by Interstates 90 and 15, one of Montana's most important tourism routes. In 1993 this constituted some 3 million vacationers indicating the potential economic impact of tourism of the region. The region is further characterized by a variety of tourism based activities including museums, historic sites, resorts and four season recreation opportunities. Small communities and towns under 5,000 predominantly serve both residents and visitors to this region. The city of Butte is the largest city—35,000—in the corridor.

The concept for the Southwest Montana Heritage and Recreation Area anticipates capital improvements of approximately \$40 million to \$60 million in interpretive and recreation infrastructure and \$20 million to \$30 million in tour routes, byways and trailways. At maturity in 10 to 15 years, the Southwest Montana Heritage and Recreation Area could be generating approximately \$8 to \$13 million in direct program maintenance and operating expenditures annually.

The Southwest Montana Heritage and Recreation Area creates a tourism infrastructure that will foster increased visitation while addressing the objectives, needs and concerns of local communities. Area businesses and residents would be encouraged to provide attractions and services to visitors through technical assistance and incentive programs.

The economic impact on the region could be substantial. When the Southwest Montana

Heritage and Recreation Area reaches maturity in 15 years, an estimated 2.7 million additional travelers will be visiting sites, recreating and using services. Based on visitor expenditure estimates it can be estimated that direct annual visitor expenditure's could total an additional \$170 million at project maturity. Combined with indirect expenditures a total economic impact of \$260 million annually.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 1996

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, workers in all sectors of the economy are feeling the pressure of economic changes and the concerns associated with planning for retirement. I am introducing legislation, The Public Employee Retirement Security Act of 1996, to update the retirement plans for public sector workers, giving them improved options and more security for their pensions.

Private sector 401(k) plans have benefited from improvements and updates over the years. The equivalent public sector plans, called 457 plans, have not kept pace with the necessary changes to such retirement-savings vehicles. My bill improves the public-sector plans and the rules that govern them.

Currently these 457 plans cap annual employee contributions to a set maximum limit of \$7,500. My legislation would index this limit to inflation, as it is for 401(k) plans, increasing the ability of these workers to meet their retirement needs.

The bill also increases the flexibility of these governmental plans by allowing accounts that are inactive for at least 2 years and contain less than \$3,500 to be cashed-out by the employee. Such a distribution would allow the employee with a changed life situation to access the funds, subject to normal taxation, and reduce the employer's costs of maintaining these dormant accounts. As employee could also alter the time when retirement benefits should begin. This provision recognizes that some public-sector employees, life firefighters and police officers, may retire early and move on to different careers. Altering the date when benefit distributions must occur gives these workers flexibility in their retirement.

The safety of governmental plans is also strengthened by this legislation. Currently employee accounts under 457 plans are the property of the employer and therefore subject to claims by creditors. The financial crisis in Orange County, CA highlighted this risk to governmental pensions. My bill would rectify this situation by placing 457 accounts into trusts, like 401(k) plans, maintaining them for the benefit of the employees. The accounts would be shielded from claims by an employer's creditors and others.

The bill improves the operation of government plans by enhancing their ability to maintain tax-exempt status. The rules governing pension plans limit the amounts paid out to prevent taxpayer subsidy of overly generous benefits. While geared toward benefits paid to top corporate executives, these limitations are