

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED MILLIE
JEFFREY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with high honor and deep admiration that I share the words of President William Jefferson Clinton as he bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom to a national treasure from the State of Michigan, Mildred "Millie" Jeffrey.

As a Catholic schoolgirl, Millie Jeffrey dodged the stones of neighborhood bigots and watched Klansmen march through town with a burning cross. As a union organizer in Mississippi, she stood bravely as company men snapped bullwhips at her feet. Clearly, they didn't know whom they were up against.

She may be small in stature and humble in manner, but she is very strong. She worked for Walter Reuther and counseled the Kennedys, influencing all with her courage and unflagging commitment to social justice. To meet the need for more women in public office, she started the National Women's Political Caucus, and sparked the effort to nominate Geraldine Ferraro 16 years ago.

For countless women around the world, she remains an inspiration. Her impact will be felt for generations, and her example never forgotten.

It has been my personal privilege to work side by side with Millie Jeffrey over these years on many vital issues ranging from the world of politics including the campaign of Robert Kennedy to the world of civil rights and the rights of women. It is hard to convey through the written word Millie's enthusiasm and dogged devotion to her causes. She not only continues to "light up" a room, but she remains committed to action and results.

In closing, let me share a bit of Millie Jeffrey herself from an upcoming documentary film of her life, "You never win freedom permanently. You have to win it time after time after time—whether it's union rights, civil rights, equality in education or for women in any aspect of our lives. We have to keep at it, and at it."

TRIBUTE TO J.R. CURTIS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of an exceptional man, an outstanding community leader and beloved citizen of Longview, Texas, the late J.R. Curtis, whose life was cut short at the age of 55 following a motorcycle accident on September 2 in Durango, Colorado. J.R. lived life with enthusiasm—and with a tremendous devotion to his family, his community, his friends and his faith. He leaves a remarkable legacy of professional and civic accomplishments—as well as a legacy of loving relationships with his family and many friends.

J.R. was born on August 18, 1945, to James R. Curtis, Sr., and Sarah DeRue Armstrong Curtis of Longview. He graduated from Longview High School in 1963 and graduated from Texas Christian University in Forth Worth in 1967. He also attended the American Institute of Foreign Trade in Glendale, Ariz., from 1967–68.

J.R. was a successful and popular radio broadcaster in Longview. He purchased KFRO AM/FM radio station from his father in 1986 and was the owner and manager until 1998. He also became owner of KLSQ—FM and operated KNYN in Santa Fe, N.M. He began his broadcasting career in high school, working for his father's station as sportscaster for KFRO's Wednesday night Teen Time Program. He learned all aspects of the radio business, from engineering to news and sales, at an early age.

J.R. was active in the Texas Association of Broadcasters, serving as a medium market director for TAB and as president of TAB. He was named Texas Broadcaster of the Year in 1990. He also was active at the national level, serving as a member of the National Association of Broadcasters Blitz Committee and as a director of NAB in Washington, DC, from 1996–99.

In addition to broadcasting, J.R. served as president of the Curtis Foundation, president of Workmans Oil Co., and a director of First Federal Savings Bank of Longview from 1982–1997. At the time of his death, he was employed as a consultant with Longview Economic Development Corp.

J.R. served nine years on the Longview City Council, from 1975–1984. In 1977 he became the youngest mayor in Texas when he was appointed by the council at age 33 to the city's top job. His recent community involvement included serving as president and vice president of Longview 20/20 Forum; finance chairman of Longview Museum Fine Arts, 1997; director of Longview Partnership, 1995–98; and a member of the administrative board of First United Methodist Church, 1996–98. He had a 19-year perfect attendance record in the Longview Rotary Club, where for many years he kept the membership informed of local and national news.

Other involvements included serving as president of Gregg County Housing Finance Corp., executive committee member for the East Texas Council of Governments, director of Little Cypress Utility District, director of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, foundation board member of Good Shepherd Medical Center, foundation board member of LeTourneau University, board member of Crisman Preparatory School and a volunteer for many other organizations. He was a member of the Collier Sunday School Class at First United Methodist Church and an usher at the church.

J.R. is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Sue Skaggs Curtis; his son and daughter-in-law, Jason Skaggs Curtis and Janey of Forth Worth; his daughter, Elizabeth Ann Curtis of Longview; granddaughter, Margaret Lynn of Forth Worth; his aunt, Ruth Elizabeth Curtis Gray of Longview; mother-in-law, Fredna Skaggs of Longview; brother-in-law Bill Hodges of Longview and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Lucas of Longview; two nephews and a niece, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Elizabeth DeRue Curtis Hodges.

J.R. had biked to Durango with five friends for an annual getaway vacation. He died as he had lived—with enthusiasm for life and for friendship. He will long be remembered for the significant contributions he made to his beloved city of Longview. As his wife and high school sweetheart, Sue Curtis, noted, "He

loved Longview. He believed in Longview. He was born here and went to school here and wanted to make it a better place."

And he did. J.R.'s influence can be found everywhere in Longview—and will be felt for years to come. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in celebration of the life of this wonderful man and citizen of Longview, Texas—J.R. Curtis, whose memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who knew him and loved him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S 89TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the Republic of China's 89th National Day, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing our friends in Taiwan a most happy and enjoyable National Day.

Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues and me, there are countless people across this nation who applaud the economic and political accomplishments of our friends in Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I truly wish there were more nations in the world following Taiwan's example of unprecedented economic success and rapid democratization; Taiwan is indeed the shining model that all developing nations in the world should seek to emulate. I am certain, Mr. Speaker, that many of my colleagues, given the opportunity, would express the same sentiment.

I am pleased for this opportunity to extend every good wish to the people of Taiwan and its leaders.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES ITS BIRTHDAY

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan will celebrate its birthday on October 10, 2000. Taiwan is a modern country led by President Chen Shui-bian, who believes that Taiwan's future lies in a strong democracy and a free enterprise system. Taiwan is an excellent model of democracy, as was demonstrated in its March presidential election. Since his inauguration as president on May 20, President Chen has convincingly demonstrated his leadership. Economically, in addition to its well-known industrial prowess, in recent years Taiwan leads most Asian nations in its production of computers, chips and telecommunications equipment.

Taiwan is Montana's 5th largest trade partner, purchasing millions of dollars of Montana exports of agricultural products, chemicals and machinery. I want to thank our friends in Taiwan for their continued importation of Montana goods.

Taiwan's citizens enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world. On the occasion