

TRIBUTE TO J.C. JEFFRIES OF
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the life and achievements of a man who was not only a personal friend, but a friend to his entire community and a respected civic leader in Arkansas, First Ward Alderman J.C. Jeffries.

J.C. passed away on Sunday, September 30, at the age of 57. Originally from Grady, Arkansas, J. C. moved to Topeka, Kansas, in high school and joined the Air Force upon graduation. Four years later, he joined the police department at Topeka and became involved in civic and youth issues. He returned to Arkansas and settled in Pine Bluff in 1979. J.C. spent the majority of his life caring for and taking an active role in the Pine Bluff community.

J.C. always put service above self by trying to make Pine Bluff a better place in which to live. He was a quiet man who always moved and spoke deliberately and with consideration. Although J.C. had his own opinions concerning politics or policy, he would always listen to others ideas and concerns. Under his leadership and non-confrontational guidance, J.C. could bring together many different groups within the community. I was honored to have him serve on my congressional African American advisory council.

As a member of the Pine Bluff City Council for 14 years, J.C. truly understood and enjoyed participating in city government. He had been an alderman since 1987 and was one of Pine Bluff's first African American city council members. As chairman of the council's public works committee, J.C. was dedicated to helping "at risk" youths through city programs. He fought hard for funding for the city's summer jobs program and made sure the money was used responsibly. The Pine Bluff Commission on Children and Youth was established under J.C.'s leadership.

In addition to his work in City Hall, J.C. also advised members of the Pine Bluff's academic community. J.C. worked at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff most recently as a career counselor and held several posts over the past twenty years. He helped find money to pave UAPB's streets and get financing for the new state-of-the-art Golden Lions Stadium.

J.C. was a man of great stature, a distinguished leader who showed compassion for everything he did and everyone he met. Even on his last day of life he was worrying more about his town's future than his own health. His passing is a significant loss not only to his family and friends, but also to the city of Pine Bluff and the people of Arkansas.

I pay tribute to him for his lifetime of accomplishments, and I am deeply grateful for J.C.'s friendship, his devotion to assisting others, and his commitment to the betterment of his community. My thoughts and prayers are with his daughters, Jacquelyn, Rhonda, and Felicia, and all his family, friends, and loved ones.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE INSTITUTE
FOR CUBAN AND CUBAN-AMERICAN
STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 1868, the Cuban people expressed their desire to be free of oppression and their determination to convert this dream into a reality. This "Grito de Yara" was a battle cry heard throughout the world, yet it was the United States who joined forces with Cuban patriots in their struggle for independence.

This served as the catalyst which would forever intertwine the histories of our two countries and would develop into an enduring friendship between our people, stemming from a unity of purpose and shared respect and admiration for our cultures.

Later, the exodus of Cubans fleeing the tyrannical and brutal rule of the Castro dictatorship in search of liberty in the U.S., further reinforced these bonds and enriched the tapestry weaving our two nations together.

The Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami, inaugurating its permanent home on October 10th, the anniversary of "Grito de Yara", builds upon this relationship by offering courses on Cuban history and culture, producing publications, sponsoring conferences and seminars, and generating original research on specific topics.

Its objectives are to preserve, teach, and disseminate the history and culture of Cuba; provide research and information about U.S. Cuban relations, contemporary Cuba, and about Cuban-Americans; increase awareness and appreciation of Cuba nationally and internationally; and to prepare for change in the island.

In the two years since its creation, the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies has coordinated a myriad of concerts; film viewings; and museum exhibits. It has held such important seminars as: "Bay of Pigs' 40th Anniversary"; "U.S. Policy Toward Cuba: Continuity and Change"; "Cuba After Castro: Succession, Transition or Chaos"; and the "Czech Republic and Human Rights in Cuba" with His Excellency Alexandr Vondra, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States.

The caliber of the work being conducted by the Institute prompted the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy to choose the Institute as its Secretariat, and compelled the U.S. Congress to recommend that one of its seminal endeavors, the Cuba Transition Project, be funded by the Agency for International Development.

The Cuba Transition Project exemplifies the forward-thinking approach and immense value of the Institute. The Project's mission is to help prepare for a transition to democracy in Cuba and for the reconstruction of the island once the post-Castro transition begins in earnest.

Under the leadership of its Founding Director, Dr. Jaime Suchlicki, and of Dr. Andy

October 5, 2001

Gomez, Dean of the School of International Studies, the Institute has earned high praise from leaders in government, business, academia and the arts.

I would like to thank our University president, Dr. Donna Shalala, the Board of Trustees, and all the administrative leadership for their support of the Institute.

Today, as the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies embarks upon a new chapter in its history and another year of groundbreaking research and memorable activities, I join my voice to those of so many supporters in congratulating the Institute.

I look forward to the continued success of the Institute.

IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT
COLONEL KAREN J. WAGNER,
U.S. ARMY, KILLED AT THE
PENTAGON ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11 shocked America. The horrible acts of terrorism, designed to kill the maximum numbers, woke all of us to the threat of international terrorism. Our borders have been violated, and we are not the same today as we were before that bright, but terrible, Tuesday morning. We have all felt the pangs of discomfort, and the national mood has gone from business as usual to mourning.

None, however, have faced the impact as much as the families of those who lost their lives that morning. One such family of so many lives in my hometown of San Antonio, and they must now lay to rest their precious daughter and sister, whose life and future were cut short at the Pentagon on September 11.

Our Nation will mourn the loss of Lieutenant Colonel Karen J. Wagner, a 17-year veteran of the U.S. Army. On October 5, 2001, she will be buried with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

Lieutenant Colonel Wagner began her Army service on February 14, 1984 with a ROTC appointment after graduation from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She previously received a masters degree in Health Services Administration from Webster University.

Lieutenant Colonel Wagner received her most recent promotion just this past August and was last assigned to the Medical Personnel Officer, Office of the Army Surgeon General, with duty as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel at the Pentagon.

Her previous assignments included duties as Adjutant for the 85th Medical Evacuation Hospital at Fort Lee, Virginia; Executive Officer and Company Commander of D Company, 187th Medical Battalion, Fort Sam Houston; Chief, Personnel for the 57th Evacuation Hospital at Wurzburg, Germany; Chief, Personnel Services Branch at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Personnel Officer assigned to Office of the Army Surgeon General; Staff Officer with Inspector General Office, U.S. Army Medical

Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Executive Officer and Secretary General Staff, Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Lieutenant Colonel Wagner was born on February 22, 1961, in Kansas, and listed Texas as her home of record. She is survived by her mother of San Antonio, Texas, and two brothers and a sister.

Lieutenant Colonel Wagner was killed because she wore the uniform of our Nation's Army, and, like those who perished at the World Trade Center, simply because she was an American. She stood up for her country and has now paid the ultimate price. We all stand in honor of her and the thousands of others who lost their lives on September 11.

HONORING HARVEY WILLOUGHBY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor an American who fought bravely for our country during World War II. Harvey Willoughby, a resident of Montrose, Colorado, was a soldier in the 268th Field Artillery Battalion that fought courageously for our country during the war.

Harvey's outfit was unique to the war effort. His battalion was armed with 8-inch guns that seemed more fitting for a battleship. They were capable of firing great distances and hitting targets beyond enemy lines. This gave the Allied forces an advantage that helped them forge forward through German forces. The 268th Field Artillery Battalion landed on the shores of Omaha Beach on August 27, 1944 following the historic D-Day invasion. After their arrival in St. Malo, it took less than three days for the 268th to overwhelm the German and Italian forces that were stationed there. Harvey and his battalion made their way east with their burly equipment and enormous guns fighting their way through Ubachsburgh, Aachen and several other cities until finally forcing German troops back across the Rhine. Harvey proudly served his country and earned several citations including the Bronze Star for his service during the war.

Mr. Speaker, Harvey Willoughby fought bravely for our country. As a nation, we are indebted to him for the perseverance and heroism Harvey displayed during World War II. I would like to extend my warmest regards and thanks and the recognition of this Congress to Harvey Willoughby for the monumental sacrifices that he has made in service to our Flag.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS
A&M UNIVERSITY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Texas A&M University, the oldest public university in Texas, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary today. By virtue

of being the first public institution of higher learning opened in the state of Texas, today we commemorate a milestone for public higher education in Texas.

When Texas A&M opened on October 4, 1876 it attracted a mere six students. Today its student body has grown to nearly 45,000, a level that is expected to once again place it among the five largest universities in the nation. Since its opening, Texas A&M has awarded more than 265,000 degrees. Its graduates include Texas Governor Rick Perry, Bolivian President Jorge F. Quiroga, legislators and other public officials at both the Federal and state levels, chief executive officers of Fortune 500 companies and numerous other highly successful individuals in business, industry and education. Additionally, it has produced thousands of officers for all branches of the military, including more than 200 who have achieved the rank of general or admiral.

While teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels will always be central to Texas A&M's multiple missions, the University has emerged as a major research institution. In fact, this past May it was selected for membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU), the prestigious 101-year-old organization that restricts its ranks to the nation's premier public and private institutions of higher learning. Texas A&M's annual investment in research now totals more than \$400 million annually—the most for any institution in Texas or the Southwest. The myriad of studies and experiments are significantly enhancing the basic body of knowledge, and many of the projects have had major economic impact on the state and nation.

Texas A&M's success in teaching and research can be attributed to an outstanding faculty whose ranks now total approximately 2,400. Included are scores of individuals who are considered among the best in their fields—nationally and internationally. The faculty includes a winner of the Nobel Prize, the National Medal of Science, the World Food Prize and numerous members of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, Texas A&M was founded as a Land-Grant College under provisions of the Morrill Act which was approved by Congress on July 2, 1862. The act stipulated that such institutions "leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanical arts in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the various pursuits and professions in life . . ."

By most assessments, Texas A&M is unsurpassed in staying true to its Land-Grant heritage while expanding into other areas that provide the foundations for a leading 21st Century university. For example Texas A&M's Colleges of Agriculture and Engineering are among the largest and most respected in the nation, and its Corps of Cadets is the largest uniformed student organization on any campus in the nation, except for the service academies.

Additionally, Texas A&M took the lead nationally in applying the Land-Grant concept to two other areas that are crucial to the nation,

specifically sea and space. The concept that led to the Federal creation of Sea-Grant and Space-Grant Colleges was initiated at Texas A&M, and Texas A&M is one of a select few institutions to hold Federal mandates as a Land-, Sea- and Space-Grant College.

Mr. Speaker, I have been fortunate to represent and work closely with Texas A&M University since I was elected to Congress in 1996. During this time I have seen first-hand from the students, the faculty, and the administration why Texas A&M University has become one of our nation's premier universities.

Again, I wish to congratulate Texas A&M University on its first 125 years and wish everyone there much success in the university's next 125 years.

REACHING UP AND OUT . . .
EMPOWERING OTHER WOMEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on October 15, an extraordinary fashion show will take place in Chicago. This fashion show, sponsored by the law firm of Arnstein & Lehr, is designed by women who are committed to improving opportunities for other women.

The theme of this fashion show is "Reaching Up and Out . . . Empowering Other Women." I want to commend Arnstein & Lehr for their tremendous work in putting this event together. They have demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of women in the Chicagoland community that is extraordinary, and I believe that this is the first example of a law firm hosting such an event. I hope that other firms will follow their example.

The proceeds of the October 15 fashion show will benefit two wonderful charities. The Prentice Women's Hospital at Northwestern Memorial Hospital is one of the most preeminent women's hospitals in the country, providing clinical care, education and research into women's health care. For too long, medical research and delivery services have failed to address the needs of women. Prentice Women's Hospital is playing a tremendous part in changing that, by focusing on women's health and allowing women to be actively involved in improving their access to medical care. The Nathaniel B. and Joyce Miriam Hirschtick Memorial Matching Gift Program will be unveiled at the Chicago Fashion Show, and it will continue to raise funds for Prentice Women's Hospital.

The other charity that will benefit is the Bottomless Closet, an organization also dedicated to improving the lives of women. The Mission Statement of the Bottomless Closet is "to provide professional clothing, job retention training, coaching and mentoring services to working-poor women, enabling them to add value to the organizations that hire them while empowering them to craft a new vision for their lives." Clothes can make a difference, not just in how others see us but in how we see ourselves. The Bottomless Closet makes sure that low-income and working-poor women have the tools necessary to achieve their