

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