

QSHC as the unifying element to carry the project forward.

The Gateway Center will fill a significant need for the communities, businesses, attractions and recreational facilities in the region.

It's imperative that the Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor be given the resources to continue to conserve, celebrate and enhance the significant historical, cultural, natural and scenic resources in the region while at the same time promoting a quality of life based on a strong, healthy economy compatible with the region's character.

The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Protection Act will go a long way toward accomplishing these important goals. I hope my colleagues will join Rep. NEAL and me in support of this worthy initiative.

RECOGNIZING MISS ARKANSAS 2001
JESSIE WARD

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, It is with honor and great pride that I wish to recognize and congratulate the new Miss Arkansas 2001 Jessie Ward, who was crowned Saturday, June 16th, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Jessie is a native of my hometown of Prescott, and I have watched her grow up since she was a little girl.

Jessie has always been a caring, talented, and hard-working young lady.

At her first press conference following her crowning as the new Miss Arkansas, Jessie said that during the competition she wanted to be different—to stand out, if you will—while remaining true to herself. I think it's safe to say she succeeded. In the talent competition, she performed an energetic tap-dance routine to "The King of Pop," a medley of hits by the world famous pop singer, Michael Jackson. Her performance earned her preliminary talent winner honors as well as the coveted \$1,000 Coleman Dairy Talent Scholarship.

During an on-stage interview, Jessie explained to the crowd that she enjoys not only bass fishing with her father, but also a rather unique hobby, taxidermy. In her words, she said, "to me, taxidermy is an art form, and everyone needs a little art in their life."

In addition to her hobby, Jessie is also co-authoring a book with her mother, Karen Ward, on perseverance, which is something I think we could all use a lesson on from time to time.

Jessie's platform as a contestant, and now as Miss Arkansas, is School Violence Prevention Awareness, and she has spent the past three years traveling through Arkansas and Texas to promote this message. In her program, she stresses the importance of recognizing warning signs and being aware of safe reactions to potentially violent situations. Just recently, she has developed a scholarship program to reward a graduating senior each year who exhibits dedication to his or her school and community.

Jessie is affiliated with the National Center for the Prevention of School Violence, and her

goal, she says, is to rally the state and national governments for funding of preventative programs and to reach at least two schools in every school district in Arkansas with her school violence prevention message.

I know this is an issue that she cares very deeply about, and I want to applaud her for her interest and leadership in helping to make our schools and communities safer.

Jessie is currently completing undergraduate degrees in biology and radio, television, and film at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She plans to attend medical school and begin working in rural medicine—something that is very important to south Arkansas. She eventually hopes to establish herself as a medical correspondent in the national broadcast arena.

Again, I say to Jessie, "Congratulations. We're proud of you, and we wish you all the best."

HONORING WAIN JOHNSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Wain Johnson after his twenty years faithful dedication to Mariposa County. Mr. Johnson's agricultural vision revised and shaped Mariposa County's grape growing industry.

In March of 1981, Wain began working as the University of California Farm Advisor for Mariposa County. Wain is a past President of the Mariposa Wine Grape Growers Association. His impact on the grape growing industry, in Mariposa County has been great. Wain's dream was for the county to become a premier grape growing and winemaking region. He helped Mariposa County realize this dream by educating the County's grape growers, providing classes and seminars in viticulture to local farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Wain Johnson for his service to the people of Mariposa County. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, 2001, I inadvertently failed to record my vote on vote No. 4187, H. Res. 99. This motion to suspend the rules adopted a resolution that would urge Lebanon, Syria and Iran to push Hezbollah to allow Red Cross staff to visit four Israelis abducted by that group in Lebanon last year. I strongly support this resolution and intended to vote "aye."

RECOGNITION OF FORT CHADBOURNE, COKE COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Chadbourne, which is located in Coke County, Texas. I commend local citizens, including Garland and Lana Richards, along with many others who have worked to preserve this important part of Texas history.

A part of the Texas Fort Trails, Fort Chadbourne was established in 1852 as one of eight frontier posts set up to provide settlers protection while venturing into the Indian Territory. It also provided a stage stop for the Butterfield Overland Mail Route. The Fort, which is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places, is open to the public for the first time in 120 years.

The Fort Chadbourne Foundation, established in 1999 to preserve and protect the Fort, is currently in the process of stabilizing the Fort ruins and also plans to restore four buildings. In addition, the Foundation has raised more than \$1,000,000 and is pursuing funding through the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program in order to establish a visitors center and museum. The center will enable visitors to learn the history of the Fort and the area.

I wish to include in the RECORD an excellent article by Preston Lewis, a free-lance writer based in San Angelo, that appeared in Sunday's edition of The Dallas Morning News.

I know that many of my colleagues join me in recognizing the important historic preservation work at Fort Chadbourne.

[From The Dallas Morning News, July 8, 2001]

PIECES OF THE PAST, FORT CHADBOURNE
PRESERVATION WORK IS COUPLE'S MISSION
(By Preston Lewis)

FORT CHADBOURNE, Texas.—Not until college did Garland Richards truly realize that not everyone grew up with a genuine frontier fort in the back yard.

Today the 49-year-old, sixth-generation Coke County rancher is opening up his back yard so that all of Texas can share his fascination with the ruins that provided his imagination such a captivating playground during his youth.

Mr. Richards' mission—or possibly his obsession—is to preserve the history of Fort Chadbourne and to stop the deterioration of the remaining structures. Ultimately, he and his wife, Lana, hope to build a visitors center where travelers on U.S. Highway 277 between San Angelo and Abilene can stop for a break and a history lesson.

"Fort Chadbourne has been good to our family," Mr. Richards said. "It's been home. It's been shelter under the storms and a place where you could keep your saddles dry. The historical value of Fort Chadbourne, which I took for granted for so many years, belongs not just to our family but to everyone."

Through his personal research of books and of original source materials in Texas repositories and the National Archives, Mr. Richards estimates that about 6,000 soldiers were stationed at the fort during its brief life. In