

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

also applied to governmental plans. Unfortunately, these limitations do not take into account the design and operation differences between public and private pensions. Some governmental pensions are designed to offer higher compensation to long-tenured, but low paid workers, or include special accounting of disability and survivor benefits, leading to violation of the pension limitations and endangering the plan's tax-exempt status. If this status is revoked, the benefits paid by such plans would be much smaller than otherwise. To prevent this, my bill lifts such restrictions on governmental pensions, allowing continuation of the special nature of these pensions without threatening their tax status.

This measure is key for public sector employees. Like those in the private sector, they need a reliable, safe retirement system and the flexibility to plan for retirement. My legislation provides the necessary changes to provide this security and flexibility. I urge my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO TUFTS UNIVERSITY TUFTONIA'S DAY 1996

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tufts University in Medford, MA and to honor its 88,000 plus alumni on the occasion of the 12th annual celebration of Tuftonia's Day.

On April 21, Tufts students, alumni, professors, administrators, and parents gathered on its campuses in Medford, Boston, and Grafton, MA and around the country and world to observe Tuftonia's Day, a holiday that is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of the Tufts community. This day derives its name from the title of the revered Tufts football fight song written by E.W. Hayes, class of 1916. Tufts University is a world class institution of higher education that was founded in 1852 by Charles Tufts. From the undergraduate through the professional degree level Tufts University instills in its students the importance of volunteerism and the need to give something back to one's local community.

The theme of this year's Tuftonia's Day was TuftServe, which focused on volunteer alumni involvement in community service. Last year, Tufts University alumni recorded more than 19,000 volunteer hours of community service. This is an outstanding record that should serve as an inspiration to us all. I congratulate the alumni of Tufts University for their hard work, their dedication and their loyalty.

HONORING THE GASSAWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Gassaway Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people

give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the important link between music and the brain—more specifically, how music makes us smarter. This is a timely subject as States and localities throughout the country are evaluating and reforming their education systems, and as we, at the Federal level, are determining funding priorities for education programs. In each case, the goal will be to ensure the highest academic achievement. Music is essential for making that goal a reality.

My hometown of Nashville, TN, is known as Music City, USA. Nashvillians are exposed to all types of music every day, and consequently, we have an inherent sense of the beneficial and profound impact that music has on our lives. But the impact extends far beyond making us feel good. We now have scientific evidence that instructing children in music leads to dramatically improved math and complex reasoning skills, in addition to the discipline and sense of self worth that we all know music provides. This research is described in the February 19, 1996, issue of Newsweek magazine. I recommend the article to parents, educators, Members of Congress, and anyone else who cares about the education and development of our children.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to report that today H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act, has 226 cosponsors—a majority of the House of Representatives.

Two hundred twenty-six Members of the House understand that travel and tourism means economic prosperity for millions of Americans.

Two hundred twenty-six Members understand that the travel and tourism industry is the first, second, or third largest employer in every congressional district in America.

Nationwide, the industry employs over 13 million people. That translates to one out of every nine Americans.

Mr. Speaker, last week you and I and millions of other Americans wrote out a check to the government and paid our taxes.

Thanks to the travel and tourism industry—the second largest industry in the Nation—you and I and every household in the United States paid \$652 less on their tax bill.

That's because the travel and tourism industry puts \$54 billion into the U.S. Treasury in the way of tax revenue.

Ironically, last week, on April 15, the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration was forced to close its doors forever.

Closing USTTA means U.S. tourism promotion efforts drop to zero.

That's why H.R. 2579 is so important. The Travel and Tourism Partnership Act will make sure that in this \$3.4-trillion industry, the United States claims its fair share of the pie.

According to futurist John Naisbitt, three industries will drive the global economy of the 21st century: telecommunications, information technology, and travel and tourism.

With the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act, we now have the chance to reshape our approach and our economic future with this monumental industry.

You've all heard the statistics before:

First, tourism employs 204 million people worldwide: almost as many people as we have living in the U.S., minus California. That equals 10 percent of the global workforce. And in the United States alone, travel and tourism accounts for one out of every nine employees.

Second, tourism produces \$655 billion dollars in Federal, State, and local tax revenue.

Third, more than 10 percent of all capital investment worldwide goes into travel and tourism. Maybe that's why travel and tourism is growing 23 percent faster than the world economy.

However, in this vastly growing market, 2 million fewer visitors came to the United States last year. That's a 19 percent decrease.

H.R. 2579 addresses this critical problem of declining U.S. market share.

In a \$300 billion international travel market, the United States of America should not be getting the short end of the stick.

Why is the U.S. losing ground?

The major reason for this slippage is that we are being out-classed and out-hustled by other nations' tourism promotion campaigns.