

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 addition to those and the various other men and women associated with frontier forts, hundreds if not thousands more traveling the Butterfield Trail stopped at the stage station adjacent to the fort.

Established Oct. 28, 1852, by Companies A and K of the 8th U.S. Infantry, Fort Chadbourne was the midpoint of a line of U.S. military posts stretching from the Red River to the Rio Grande in pre-Civil War Texas. The fort was named for 2nd Lt. Theodore Lincoln Chadbourne, who had died in the Battle of Resaca de la Palma during the Mexican War.

Though officially closed as a military post in 1867 in favor of the newly established Fort Concho about 45 miles to the southwest, the site and buildings continued to be used by the Army in West Texas through 1873).

Three years after the Army left the site for good, T.L. Odom—Mr. Richards' great-great-grandfather—purchased the half section encompassing the fort near Oak Creek and another half section where the Army cut its timber.

Mr. Odom established the O-D Ranch headquarters at the fort site. That land and the fort have been in the family ever since. The property today is known as the Chadbourne Ranch, and it encompasses about 25,000 acres in Coke and Runnels counties.

"Back then, Fort Chadbourne didn't mean anything to them other than a place to stay, a roof to keep the rain off their heads and

some place to get in out of the sun," Mr. Richards said.

The roofs on all of the fort structures are gone now. During a 1957 West Texas wind-storm, the last surviving roof was blown off a barracks building that was being used as a tool and tack shed.

Today, that barracks's roofless sandstone walls, some with prickly pear growing out the top, are braced against collapse as they are being prepared for a stabilization project that should be completed by the end of the year.

FATHER WAS INSPIRATION

Mr. Richards' father, the late Conda Richards, provided both the inspiration and the grubstake for him to revive Fort Chadbourne from gradual decay and to save its legacy from historical oblivion.

"He and I talked at length about preserving the fort," Mr. Richards said. "He was excited and very supportive."

When his father died in 1998, Mr. Richards used all of the money from his inheritance to start the Fort Chadbourne Foundation, a 501 (c)3 nonprofit charitable foundation.

"It has been a learning process from the word go," he said. "I've run budgets on cattle and I've run budgets on wheat and everything else, but as far as me going in and making a seven-year projected budget on a fort and submitting it to the IRS for a 501 (c)3, I was pretty much at a loss."

Mr. Richards majored in agriculture at Angelo State University, but over the last five years, he and his wife have probably earned the equivalent of a Ph.D. in history, grant-writing and nonprofit management in their efforts to preserve the fort and its heritage.

Mrs. Richards said she has supported her husband in the project from the beginning.

"I'm not as knowledgeable a history buff as Garland is, but this is the kind of enterprise where he and I can use our strengths," she said. "I told him if he wanted to go to grant-writing classes, I'd go with him. I'm not the writer he is, but I'm a better speller. What he can't come up with, I usually can."

She has learned that the history can become fascinating.

"You never know what you are going to come up with," she said. "Today I've been taking pictures where we uncovered some more stones with names carved on them. That is exciting, a real energizer."

The creation of the foundation opened up the possibility of grant monies to support the work that the couple had been funding out of their own pockets. It was more money than Mr. Richards cares to admit, plus "four years of our lives."

To help cover the expenses, they started writing grant proposals. Through support from the Summerlee Foundation, the Dodge-Jones Foundation and the Texas Historical Commission, they have brought in an additional \$414,000.

RESEARCH PROJECT

In addition to the stabilization project, the grants have helped fund a billboard on Highway 277 pointing to the turnoff to the ruins. A historical research project is in progress to identify documents and other primary source materials necessary to write the first history of Fort Chadbourne.

Each fall, the foundation also has a fund-raiser for the preservation efforts. The event includes reenactors, programs on the fort, and skits reflecting stories and vignettes from the fort's past. Last year, for instance, Mr. Richards included in the program a newly discovered letter from the post surgeon to the War Department stating in the most formal language that he was unable to give his monthly meteorological report in full because the Comanches had stolen his rain gauge. This year's fund-raiser is scheduled for Sept. 22.

"We've looked every way we could look trying to figure out a way for Fort Chadbourne to pay for itself," Mr. Richards said. "We've pretty much determined that Fort Chadbourne will never pay for itself or make an income. As far as the dollars Lana and I have invested in the fort, I don't think that anybody will ever recover those dollars. This is just something I wanted to do, and I convinced her that we needed to do it."

If the site can be preserved and developed, Mr. Richards said he believes it can bring in significant revenue to the area. He said studies indicate that visitors to historic sites spend an average of \$94 a day in the area.

"If we are capable of bringing in 80,000 visitors a year, which the numbers indicate to us we are capable of doing," Mr. Richards said, "theoretically, that could put another \$7.5 million into the economy of San Angelo, Abilene, Ballinger, Bronte and Winters."

Even if the economics of the fort never reach that level, Mr. Richards said he's glad he made the effort to save Fort Chadbourne.

"It has been a lot of work, but it's been a lot of fun. I've met some neat people along the way and they are what keeps us going," he said.

For example, an article on the Texas Forts Trail in the November issue of Texas Highways ran a photograph of a carved inscription in the barracks wall: Albert Haneman, Oct. 19, 1858, Co. B 2 Cav.

Two days after the magazine appeared on newsstands, Mr. Richards received a call from John and Laura Haneman of Austin, indicating that Albert Haneman was his great-grandfather. Barely weeks after the photo appeared, Haneman family members from Austin and El Paso met at Fort Chadbourne for a family reunion and the chance to see in person the graffiti of their ancestor.

"I've got a cool job," Mr. Richards said. "It doesn't pay well, but things like that are what makes what we are doing worthwhile."

HONORING LARRY HOLMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Holman on the occasion of his retirement later this summer. Mr. Holman has served 30 years as the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Superintendent for Education of the Eastern Navajo Agency. Since beginning his BIA career in 1966 as a Wingate Elementary school teacher, he has dedicated his life to bringing equal opportunity education to the Navajo youth of New Mexico.

Mr. Holman has seen many changes during his term. In the late sixties, families would bring their children to school in horse-drawn wagons. In the seventies, there was a lot of pressure to only emphasize English instruction. One of his many distinguished accomplishments was instituting a new Bureau of Indian Affairs personnel system. Through his efforts, BIA teachers' salaries were raised to equal the Department of Defense teacher's rate. This led to a superior teaching staff, and it has increased the quality of education for students.

Such dedication to our teachers and our students, the future of our world, is one of the greatest gifts that a person can give. Mr. Holman has touched many lives and affected a strong beginning for a successful education for many New Mexicans.

Today we recognize Larry Holman's distinguished career and his remarkable service to the youth of the Navajo nation. Mr. Speaker, I believe that I speak for every citizen in the State of New Mexico when I extend our congratulations and best wishes for a retirement filled with happiness.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE POLICE OFFICER LOIS MARRERO

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I joined thousands of Floridians in saying goodbye to one of Tampa's finest, Police Officer Lois Marrero, who was struck down when a bank robber opened fire on four pursuing officers. Marrero was Tampa's first female police officer killed in the line of duty, but she will be remembered in Florida for so much more.

A devoted officer, Marrero never let her diminutive stature slow her down. Today, her friends and colleagues recalled her feisty spirit, her dedication to the job and as one officer described it, her "heart that was twice as big as her physical size."

Marrero, who was just 15 months shy of retirement, impressed her superiors throughout her career for her energy and professionalism. She was praised for her crime fighting efforts in Ybor City's neighborhoods, and as head of the Tampa Police Department's community affairs bureau and gang suppression units, Marrero was credited for cutting back a rash of car thefts that plagued our city in the mid-1990s.

To her friends and family, Marrero will be remembered as a caring person who was always ready to lend a helping hand. In the words of one neighbor, Lois Marrero was "the kind of person you could count on."

For those of us who never had the privilege of getting to know Officer Marrero, it is our duty to remember Lois for the ultimate sacrifice that she made to keep our community safe. This terrible tragedy reminds us that law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to protect us and our families, friends and neighbors. In honoring Lois Marrero, we show our gratitude to the entire law enforcement community.

So today, on behalf of the citizens of Tampa Bay, who came together this week in an outpouring of sympathy, prayers and tributes, I thank Officer Marrero and Tampa's Police Department for their commitment to our neighborhoods and I send our deepest sympathies to Lois' family, friends and colleagues for this great loss.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD W. McDOWELL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. Richard W. McDowell, the longest-serving President in Schoolcraft College's history. He will be retiring on June 30,