

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE JEFFRIES

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Coach Willie Jeffries on the occasion of his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame on Saturday, July 17, 2010. Willie Jeffries is a legend in the State of South Carolina. As the first African-American head coach of a NCAA Division I-A football program, he was a giant in the football world, and proved to be an incredible leader both on and off the field.

Coach Jeffries was born in Union, SC, on January 4, 1937. He graduated from South Carolina State University, SCSU, where he would later return as the head football coach. If there was ever a "glass is half full" guy, it was Willie Jeffries. Coach Jeffries was defined by his optimistic outlook on life and the world around him.

Willie Jeffries began his career at South Carolina State University where he served as coach from 1973–1978. From there, he went on to become head coach at Wichita State University in 1979. With his hiring, Coach Jeffries became the first African-American head coach of a NCAA Division I-A program. After winning only one game his first season, he held the post for five seasons and led his team to an 8–2 record his third year. During his tenure at Wichita State University, Coach Jeffries became the only man to coach against legendary coaches Eddie Robinson of Grambling and Paul "Bear" Bryant of the Alabama. He left Wichita State University with a record of 21–32–2, ranking him third in university history for total wins.

From 1984–1988 Coach Jeffries took over the program at Howard University, leading them to the first of his seven Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference—MEAC—Championships. In 1989 he returned to his alma mater to take his position as head coach for the South Carolina State University Bulldogs. Coach Jeffries finished out his career as the head coach of South Carolina State.

During his time in coaching, he led his teams to numerous post-season appearances, six Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference—MEAC—titles, and two Black college national championships. Coach Jeffries won almost 60 percent of the games he coached, and when he retired in 2001 he did so as the winningest coach in MEAC history with a 179–132–6 career record. In 2010, South Carolina State University further honored him by naming him Head Football Coach Emeritus by the University Board of Trustees.

Throughout his career, Coach Jeffries was named coach of the year on eight different occasions. In 2002 he was awarded the lifetime achievement award by the Black Coaches Association. In addition to being an inductee of both the MEAC Hall of Fame and SCSU Athletic Hall of Fame, Jeffries was awarded the Order of the Silver Crescent in 2001. This is South Carolina's highest honor for Outstanding Community Service.

Coach Jeffries success on the field is not only matched but exceeded by his actions off the field. He possesses a great spirit of optimism, humor, intellect, and decency that has made him a role model for all the young men he has coached and those of us who call him a friend.

I ask that the U.S. Senate join me in honoring him for his impressive coaching career and newest honor as an inductee into the College Football Hall of Fame.●

2010 ALTUS GRAPE FESTIVAL

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I join residents of Altus and all Arkansans to commemorate the 2010 Altus Grape Festival.

For 27 years, the Altus Grape Festival has celebrated area grape growers and recognized the heritage of the grape in Altus. The festival is sponsored each year by the area's local wineries—Post Familie, Mount Bethel, Wiederkehr, and Chateau Aux Arc—and by area grape growers, businesses, civic organizations and residents.

Known as the "Arkansas Wine Capital," Altus welcomes visitors from across the State, Nation, and world to celebrate the area's rich heritage during the festival. The 2-day event features a variety of activities, including a Friday night street dance and fireworks display, live music, grape-related games for children and adults, a grape stomp competition, quality juried arts and crafts, and wine and juice tasting by all local wineries. Amateur winemakers are also invited to bring the best of their homemade wine to the Amateur Winemaking Competition.

I commend the residents of the Altus area for their commitment to the history and heritage of Arkansas. I wish them all the best as they celebrate during this year's Grape Festival.●

ARKANSAS'S DELEGATES TO BOYS NATION AND GIRLS NATION

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize four young Arkansans who have represented our State during Boys Nation and Girls Nation events in Washington, DC. These students represent the best of our State, and I was proud to visit with them during their trip to our Nation's Capitol.

Arkansas's Boys Nation delegates for 2010 are Alex Geiger from North Little Rock and Joseph Kieklak from Fayetteville. Arkansas's Girls Nation delegates for 2010 are Brittany Webb of Jonesboro and Devika Menta of Conway. These students were also a part of Boys State and Girls State, held earlier this summer in Arkansas.

I commend our Boys and Girls State delegates for their dedication and commitment to learning about our Nation's legislative process on the local, State, and Federal levels. The knowledge they gain will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

As a former delegate, I can say that attending Girls State was one of several experiences that heightened my passion for public service. It was a huge part of my overall process of growing up and learning to respect our country, government, and fellow man.

Sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, Boys and Girls Nation brings together high school students from across the country to learn about government and citizenship.

I also comment the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, of which I am a member, for their efforts to educate and inform our Nation's youth.●

2010 ARKANSAS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate recipients of the 2010 Arkansas Community Service Awards. I am proud of their dedication to helping fellow Arkansans, and I commend their spirit of volunteerism, community involvement, and service. These men and women represent the best of Arkansas, and I congratulate them on this prestigious recognition.

This year's winners are:

INDIVIDUAL

Neta Stamps of Berryville
James Brown of Norphlet
Lorrie Lindeman of Heber Springs
Raul Blasini of Pochontas
Theodoshia Cooper of Little Rock
Stella Lowe of Little Rock

YOUTH HUMANITARIAN

Matt Eckess of Maumelle

SMALL CORPORATE HUMANITARIAN

Reynolds Forestry Consulting and Real Estate of Magnolia

LARGE CORPORATE

CenterPoint Entergy

For 32 years the Arkansas Community Service Awards have recognized individuals and businesses for their dedication and commitment to supporting volunteerism throughout Arkansas. The awards are sponsored by the Department of Human Services-Division of Volunteerism, DOV, KARK Channel 4, the Governor's Office, and Duncan Law Firm.

We all know the challenges that face our State and Nation. Community service is a critical component of tackling these challenges and making us stronger. I encourage all Arkansans to embrace the spirit of volunteerism and community service on display by this year's Community Service Award winners. Working together, we can make a difference in our local communities and across our great State.●

ARKANSAS HISTORIC SITES

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize two Arkansas historic sites that have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. These Arkansas landmarks help define our State's history and heritage, and I am

proud to see them included on the National Register.

The newly listed properties are:

WEST MEMPHIS CITY HALL

West Memphis City Hall at 100 Court Street in West Memphis in Crittenden County was constructed in 1938 through the Public Works Administration program and opened July 18, 1939.

ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY IN SHERRILL

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Sherrill in Jefferson County, a Black cemetery behind the church, predates the existing church and is the oldest structure on-site. The earliest documented burial in the cemetery, the grave of the Rev. Louis Mazique, was in 1885.

Along with all Arkansans, I congratulate these communities for receiving this national recognition. I also salute the local officials and residents of our State for their efforts to maintain the beauty and history of their communities.●

OPEN ARMS SHELTER

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize the staff, board members, and volunteers of Open Arms Shelter in Lonoke County for their steadfast efforts to provide a home for abused or neglected children.

Over 25 years, more than 2,100 children have found a temporary home at Open Arms until they are able to be placed in a relative's home, a foster home, or a long-term facility.

Under the leadership of executive director Susan Bransford, the shelter served 177 children in 2009 and expects to serve at least that many this year.

Open Arms provides children with the resources and care they need to be successful in school and life. The children attend school in Lonoke and have access to afterschool tutors if needed. Open Arms provides food, clothing, medical care and housing, while also offering recreational and educational outings and lessons, all within a structured, disciplined environment.

The shelter employs 11 staff members, 2 of whom live at the shelter, along with 2 part-time cooks, a case coordinator, a part-time bookkeeper and 2 relief workers.

The Open Arms board of directors includes individuals from throughout Lonoke County. They are: Shelby Hillman, Kathy Millard and David Woods of Carlisle; Peggy Anderson, Merritt Holman, Kaye Anderson and Betty Wilson of Lonoke; Leann Hanshaw, Rhonda Harps, Rhonda House and Patrick J. Hagge of Cabot; Pam Foster, Gary Canada and Sherry Sandage of England; and LuAnn Ashley of Little Rock, member at large.

I commend the entire Open Arms community for their dedication to helping children in need with compassion and a loving heart.●

TRIBUTE TO DEVON ALEXANDER

● Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in recog-

nizing Devon Alexander "The Great" of Saint Louis, MO. It is an honor to celebrate and pay tribute to Devon's undefeated boxing career and commitment to giving back to his community.

Devon was born on February 10, 1987, in North Saint Louis. Seven years later, he began his boxing career after discovering a gym run by St. Louis police officer Kevin Cunningham. The gym was housed in the basement of a former St. Louis City Police Station in the neighborhood of Hyde Park, which had one of the highest crime rates in the city of St. Louis at the time.

Devon continued to improve in the sport of boxing, eventually joining the ranks of the most recognized amateur boxers in the United States. His long list of accomplishments stands as a testament to his love of the sport and personal dedication to success.

As an amateur, Devon participated in almost 300 fights and won every title possible in St. Louis and many at the national level. The titles included four-time Silver Gloves national champion from age 10 to 14; three-time Police Athletic League national champion; 2001 Junior Golden Gloves national champion and Junior Olympic national champion before moving on to win the World Junior Olympics, where he was also named Best Boxer; 2003 U.S. National Champion for those 19 and under; the U.S. National Championship in 2004 in the 141-pound junior welterweight division; and was invited to join the U.S. National Team.

On May 20, 2004, at the age of 17, Devon made the decision to become a professional boxer. He continued to win and amassed a professional record that stands at 20 wins and zero losses. As a professional boxer, Devon faced and received praise from some of boxing's most recognized names.

On August 7, 2010, Devon Alexander "The Great" marks his return to St. Louis to defend his undefeated title. He is a strong example of what hard work and perseverance can accomplish. Devon's journey from adversity to success is an inspiration to countless others and it is truly commendable.

Devon will use all proceeds from the "Devon Alexander Hometown Hero Celebration" that will be held on August 1, 2010, at St. Louis City Hall, to benefit nonprofit boxing organizations in the St. Louis amateur boxing community.

Devon Alexander "The Great" has made the city of St. Louis and the State of Missouri proud.

I ask that the Senate join me in honoring Devon Alexander "The Great" for his personal success and service to the Saint Louis community and to our country. I am proud to recognize this extraordinary Missourian and wish him many more healthy, happy, and successful years to come.●

REMEMBERING PAULINE MARTENS

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I honor the life and contribu-

tions of Pauline Ruth Martens, who recently passed away at the age of 87. Born in Maine and raised near Boston, Pauline came to Alaska soon after World War II with her husband Arnold. Her relationship with the Frontier State began, much as it did with her beloved Arnold, with love at first sight.

In many ways, Pauline's life was about taking the next step while never leaving those who were most important behind. The period after WWII was an exciting time in Alaska, and Pauline was an active participant in the development of Anchorage, the Great Land's largest city. While raising their family, Pauline and Arnold worked together to develop both business and residential properties, including the Palm Motel and the Forest Park South subdivision. To Pauline, however, it was her relationships with family and friends—her role in guiding her children and grandchildren and helping her friends and community—that mattered most.

In addition to the love she gave to her family, Pauline brought her ideals, her zest for life, and her strong character to bear on helping those in the community around her. Beginning as a Girl Scout troop leader during her daughter's Scouting years, to becoming a board member and chairman of the Susitna Council of the Alaska Girl Scouts, Pauline's contributions to the development of Alaska's young women were significant and positive. As her own children grew, Pauline took on the role of helping other children take positive steps forward as a member of the board of Junior Achievement and Hope Cottages, which serves developmentally disabled children and their families.

In whatever endeavor Pauline Martens took on, she was never just a name on a roster. She believed that any undertaking deserved her full participation. So it was no surprise that her commitment to the Republican Party led to her service in roles both ordinary and distinguished. Whether as the "bouncer" at the Annual International Food Festival, poll watcher, FREE member promoting the opening of ANWR, State chairman of the Alaska Republican Party, or president of the Alaska Federation of Republican Women, Pauline worked hard for those who shared her beliefs and ideals. Her enthusiasm, hard work, and commitment earned her the title of Woman of the Year in three separate decades from the Anchorage Republican Women's Club, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Republican Party of Alaska.

Pauline was a mentor to many young Republican women—including me. She gave encouragement, good counsel, and always a warm smile. I recall many Republican State conventions working side by side with Pauline while she directed so much of the political operations with a graciousness that was appreciated by all.

Still, it was Pauline's love for her family and the beauty of Alaska's