

Torch of Liberty Award, the Forward Times Community Service Award, the League of United Latin American Citizens Service Award, Community Service Award, the La Raza Award.

In addition, he was a Presidential nominee to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, indicating our great respect for him at the Federal level.

Let me suggest to you that he had many friends. I am reminded of my conversation with the Honorable Barbara Jordan. When I was returning to Texas, I asked who should we engage, and who should we find out about Texas, its mood, its needs, its struggles, its trials, its tribulations?

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Barbara Jordan, as I sat in her office, said, "Judge Andrew Jefferson." He was her friend, her advisor and counselor.

They were strong friends together because they believed in the empowerment of all. They fought for civil rights one and all. As she believed in the empowerment of the Voter Rights Act of 1965, expanding it to Texas in 1968, Judge Jefferson was right along her side.

This is a fitting honor, an endowed chair that will be bestowed upon him on May 6. I believe it is more than his choice, but our desire to be able to honor him, to be able to salute him as he is being endowed by a chair on May 6, 2005. He is a great Texan, a great American. God bless him and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor a great legal scholar and a great institution of legal education in the Eighteenth Congressional District of Houston, Texas. The institution about which I speak is the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University (TSU), established in 1947 and the scholar is Judge Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. At a time when the future of Houston's public school system is in jeopardy, I am especially pleased to deliver this statement in honor of a scholar who is the product of our own Yates High School.

On Friday, May 6, 2005, I will join my constituents to honor Judge Jefferson on the occasion of the establishment of an endowment for trial advocacy in his name as the first endowed Chair, called the "Andrew L. Jefferson Endowment for Trial Advocacy" at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas.

Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, a native of Dallas, Texas, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959 after earning his bachelor's degree from TSU where he was the president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and became a partner with Washington and Jefferson, Attorneys at Law, in Houston. He served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Bexar County, a chief assistant United States attorney for the Western District of Texas, and a trial counsel and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil & Refining Company. In addition, Judge Jefferson served in the Judge Advocate General Corps in the United States Army Reserve where he was honorably discharged as a Captain.

In 1970, Judge Jefferson was appointed to preside over the Court of Domestic Relations #2 for Harris County, and in 1974, he was elected judge of the 208th District Court, Harris County. In 1975, he decided to re-engage in private practice and is admitted to practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth, Sixth, and Eleventh Circuits and the Supreme Court of the United States.

A longtime active committee member of the State Bar of Texas, Judge Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. is also a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a member of the American Bar Foundation, the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, and the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission. This outstanding jurist, who is renowned for his expertise in legal practice, is a highly sought-after speaker throughout his career and has frequently shared his experience and knowledge with the Criminal Law Institute for the Houston Bar Association and the San Antonio Bar Association. Furthermore, Judge Jefferson has spoken at conventions for the National Bar Association and the Family Law Institute.

Aside from the respect that he has earned as a skilled jurist and advocate, Judge Jefferson's leadership and sound judgment has merited tenures as chairman of the board of the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank and of the Texas Southern University Foundation. Moreover, he is a life member of the Houston Area Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He has received numerous awards and honors, among them the Anti-Defamation League National Torch of Liberty Award, the Forward Times Community Service Award, the League of United Latin American Citizens National Community Service Award, and the Community Service Award from La Raza. In addition, he was a Presidential Nominee to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

To honor Judge Jefferson on this occasion will be momentous for the City of Houston, for Texas Southern University, and for minorities worldwide who aspire to study and practice law or for minority students who lack confidence in their potential to succeed. I congratulate and thank the State of Texas for its contribution to the overall accrual of the resources that were required for the endowment.

The establishment of a Trial Advocacy program at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law will be both an actual and a symbolic landmark. As recently as last year, I joined the students, legislators, and community leaders at Prairie View A&M University on the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to fight for fair and unobstructed voting rights for those students. It was the skilled advocacy of the Lawyer's Committee that produced a statement by the Secretary of State in favor of the students. Furthermore, the well-settled jurisprudence of *caselaw* such as *Symm v. United States* and *United States v. Texas*, which made important pronouncements as to the adequacy of students' residency/domicile status to determine eligibility to vote were the product of skilled trial advocacy. Without the work of the skilled advocates who argued those cases, we would have an even longer journey to equality of the right to vote in this nation.

Therefore, the endowment that will be established in the name of the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. will provide a legacy and

will produce legal scholars who will contribute to the achievement of equality in the United States of America. I congratulate the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University and I thank Judge Jefferson for his service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLES of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FEENEY. addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GREATEST TRAGEDY OF MANKIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, when I came here in 1997, we passed the first balanced Budget Act in 30 years. That was a result of the work of a lot of people. I do not take credit for making that happen. But then after having a balanced budget and running a surplus until the year 2001, beginning in January of that year, when we turned over this great country to the Bush administration and a Republican majority in the House and the Senate, and let us be very clear about that. The Republicans have controlled the House, the Senate, the White House and the Supreme Court for all of this time. And we have turned over a \$5 trillion surplus to these people.

Now, as we just saw a few minutes ago from one of our conscientious Blue Dogs, they have turned that \$5 trillion surplus into an \$8 trillion debt. And just last week when the budget was passed that I voted against and most of the Democrats voted against, as far as I know all of them did, they raised the debt ceiling again to \$9 trillion.

We are having to raise the debt ceiling almost \$1 trillion a year to keep up with the total mismanagement of the people's affairs by the Republicans. It would be hard to imagine a greater fiscal disaster than the Bush administration has led us to.

Over and over and over again, we tried to reach out and we tried to say, let us reestablish the budget rules that got us to a surplus back in the 90s. Let us admit that we have got a problem. Let us require a balanced budget. Let us require pay-as-you-go. If you cannot pay for it, you cannot spend it. Let us make borrowing money from our children and grandchildren much more difficult to do, and it should only be done in cases of great national emergency.

Recently, the President has gone before the Nation and declared he wants to save Social Security. Regardless of the outcome of what he wants to do, if we do not take care of the debt and the deficit, all we are doing is rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. It is a ridiculous exercise to talk about changing the Social Security system

when we do not know how we are going to pay the interest on the national debt 5 years from now.

If nothing is done by the time the Social Security so-called crisis occurs, it will take every nickel of the income of the Federal Government just to pay the interest on the debt. And my question to the Republicans that have created this situation, and I remember so well how they told us back in 2001, if we just do this, if we just cut taxes on the richest people in this country, the economy will just bubble up out of the ground. It will be the land of milk and honey. Nothing but free Bubble-Up and rainbow stew everywhere for everyone.

What a ridiculous thing that has been proven to be. But they told us if you will just do this, everything will be wonderful.

The fact is they have borrowed nearly \$5 trillion from our children and grandchildren and do not have a clue as to how they are going to pay it back. And the great mystery to me is why. Why would you want to do that? Why would you deceive yourselves into thinking that that is something good for this great Nation?

I can tell you this, the United States of America is the most wonderful thing ever done by man with a divine inspiration of God Almighty. And if we would be so foolish as to spend ourselves completely bankrupt and not take any action to deal with this in a responsible way while we may still have time to do it, it will be the greatest tragedy of mankind.

AMERICA NEEDS TO WAKE UP BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk to the House about this deficit and about our failure and the consequences facing this Nation if we do not respond and put some brakes on our spending.

This deficit is our greatest problem and the greatest threat to the financial security of the United States, which means the financial security of the free world.

Just think of it, when this administration, when President Bush took office 4 years ago, we had over \$2 trillion surplus. Now, 4 years later, we have over a \$4 trillion deficit, running up nearly \$400 billion as we speak here this afternoon.

This is dangerous. It is not in the best interest of this country. Just think of this one fact: just on paying the deficit, paying the interest on what we are borrowing, 90 percent of which we are borrowing from foreign countries, China, Japan, India, 90 percent of our debt is being held by foreign interests. How insecure is that? And just the amount that we are paying, the interest is more than what we are paying for our own national security.

America, we need to wake up. We need to understand what is at stake; our future is what is at stake. And who is going to pay this debt? Not me. Not anyone in this room. Our children, our grandchildren. I have children; I have two young grandchildren. Is it right to saddle them with this deficit?

Just recently on the issue of Social Security, the President's answer for Social Security is to do what? Borrow more money to set up private accounts. That will do absolutely nothing to deal with the solvency of Social Security.

Something is wrong and this House must move to correct it. Not long ago or at a time of great crisis in this country, two great men sat here right here in Washington, D.C. One was Robert E. Lee and the other was Abraham Lincoln. They sat on the balcony of the White House and looked out at all the devastation that the Civil War had brought.

These are two great Americans. Abraham Lincoln said to Robert E. Lee, It is not incumbent upon us to complete the task. Robert E. Lee finished the sentence and said, But neither are we free to desist from doing all we possibly can.

Are we doing all we possibly can on this deficit, on this debt? No, we are not. We are on that side, and we are on this side, and we are on this corner. The American people are expecting us to come together, solve this deficit, pay as you go, put some strong fiscal responsibility in this House and solve Social Security.

There was a recent poll on Social Security that I bring of interest. It was just out in yesterday's paper. It had an interesting point. Sixty-two percent of the American people feel that the Republicans will do too much to solve the Social Security problem and sixty-one percent of the American people feel that the Democrats will do too little. Therein lies our challenge, but also lies our opportunity, from this side to come and from that side to come and we can come together and solve this issue.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude with this statement, a very important statement. On the bleached bones of many past great civilizations are written those pathetic words: Too late.

Will that be our epitaph? When the history books are written, what did this Congress do to save Social Security, to pay down the debt?

Let it not be that the history books will write of us "too late."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KING of Iowa, addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TOILING FOR FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we welcome this week the President of Georgia and the architect of the Rose Revolution in that country, it is critically important that the United States Congress continue to focus on the need to bring about freedom and democracy as antidote to terrorism, to oppression, and instability.

Nowhere is this policy more pertinent than in Central Asia. Kyrgyzstan today is a vivid example of the need to continue and indeed strengthen this policy in the region.

Months of civilian protests and flawed parliamentary elections culminated in the invalidation of those election results by that country's supreme court, the resignation of the entire cabinet, and an end to the 15-year reign of its strongman.

This is a clear sign that the winds of democratic change cannot be stopped.

The Kyrgyz people certainly took note of the elections in nearby Afghanistan, of Georgia's Rose Revolution and Ukraine's Orange Revolution in November of last year; courageous individuals such as Mr. Edil Baisalov of the president's Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society, Kyrgyzstan, who are struggling to exert their rights as citizens and human beings.

He will be testifying before the Committee on International Relations tomorrow on how the U.S. can help support those who, like him, toil for freedom around the world.

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I assure you that what we do in this body resonates throughout that region.

Mr. Baisalov has referred to the positive impact of a resolution that I introduced on the status of human rights in central Asia, and that it has energized the opposition and the prodemocracy, the dissident movement in his country.

The U.S., along with the European Union, was quick to denounce Kyrgyzstan's recent parliamentary election as seriously flawed. It was precisely this Western rejection of sham elections in Georgia and Ukraine that helped tip the balance there.

Thus, as the Central Asian states enter into a challenging phase of political transition, the United States must continue to maintain the pressure for democratic change in Central Asia.

The challenges are immense. Opposition parties in Central Asia are either fictitious organizations that exist only on paper or, as in Kazakhstan, opposition groups in name only, as in Uzbekistan, where all five opposition parties support supposedly the president.

Turkmenistan's president has gone as far as to dispense with the pretense of democratic rule and brazenly declared himself president for life, a move that demonstrates his confidence that his dictatorship will go unchallenged by the world.

This situation has not gone unchallenged by the United States. In July of