



## Jefferson Delivers National Radio Address in Support of Stem Cell Research

Congressman Jefferson delivered the Congressional Black Caucus weekly "Message to America," which airs on all National Urban Radio affiliate stations.

While advocating support of reversing the ban on funding of new stem cell lines, he said that continued research of stem cell use could directly benefit the African-American community's health.

"African-Americans are 1.6 times more likely to have diabetes than Whites; African-Americans are at greater risk for cardiovascular disease than Whites..." Jefferson said. "These diseases are killing African-Americans in record numbers. With new technology, expanded adult stem cells, instead of normal adult cells, could prove to be just as productive as embryonic cells and

could regenerate new pancreatic cells for diabetes patients and heart cells for heart disease patients."

He said America should be the leader in biomedical research and development, "not for pride's sake but for people's sake." He said we must act urgently to change the health prospects of all America's people. ■

### Jefferson Supports National Finance Center Employees

Jefferson hailed the work of the NFC and that of its hardworking employees in Congressional hearings in Washington, D.C. and at events in the New Orleans area and addressed the employees' concerns about possible job losses at the center.

"Since last summer, when the NFC first unjustly came under attack due to faulty technology, I have been aggressively working with the officials at the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board and the Thrift Savings Plan to secure the credibility of the NFC and its employees as well as their jobs," Jefferson said in his written statements and committee testimony. "I will continue to vigorously resolve these inconsistencies and fight for your jobs as well as the well being of the NFC."

Jefferson met with Thrifty Savings Plan Executive Director Gary Amelio, who assured him that there would not be any positions eliminated that could not be absorbed. He also said that he would ask Amelio to visit the center again and meet local and state officials so that he could get a better feel of the community commitment to the employees and the efficiency of the center and support of the Thrift Savings Plan. ■

### Jefferson Parish/ Westbank Congressional Office Now Open

*Jefferson Parish General  
Government Building  
Suite 3200  
200 Derbigny Street  
Gretna, Louisiana 70053  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
(504) 368-7019*



*Congressman Jefferson pictured (from left to right) with International Longshoreman Association President James O. Campbell and New Orleans Cold Storage Dockside Marketing Vice President Mark Blanchard. He visited the Port's Jordan Terminal to discuss the benefits of the "tonnage tax" provision for New Orleans-based shipping. He also talked to workers who were preparing ships for international poultry export. ■*

## Jefferson Joins HUD in Announcing Community Development Grant for SUNO

Congressman Jefferson joined U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Deputy Secretary Alphonso Jackson to announce that Southern University of New Orleans (SUNO) will receive \$550,000 to revitalize the Bienville Corridor and its Catchment Area.

“Community development is essential to the future of our great city and it is fitting that our future leaders work as key players in the effort to revitalize and shape our neighborhoods,” Jefferson said. “This grant is valuable to our area because it will help us meet critical needs such as blighted housing and infrastructure improvements, among other things. And, this will lend to community reinvestment and overall stabilization of the neighborhood.”

SUNO was selected as one of 14 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to be awarded a grant which is designed to help schools stimulate local community and economic development. The HBCU program funds grantees to carry out projects designed primarily to benefit low and moderate-income residents or meet urgent community development needs. The grants can be used for activities such as: acquiring real estate; demolition; homeownership assistance to low- and moderate-income persons; special economic development activities; and rehabilitation of residential, commercial or industrial buildings to correct code violations.

The grant awarded to SUNO will be matched with funds by the State of Louisiana Economic Development Department which will bring the total close to \$1,000,000. ■

## Jefferson Champions Identity Theft Prevention with N.O. Senior Citizens

Congressman Jefferson held a briefing with senior citizens at the Central City Senior Center on Jackson Avenue and invited representatives from the U.S. Postal Service and the Federal Trade Commission to discuss a consumer education initiative to prevent citizens from becoming victims of identity theft and raise awareness of America's fastest growing crime.

Identity theft involves acquiring key pieces of someone's personal identifying information in order to impersonate them. The information enables the identity thief to commit numerous forms of fraud, which include taking over the victim's financial accounts; opening new bank accounts; purchasing homes and automobiles; and applying for loans, credit cards and social security benefits.

Last year, 9.9 million Americans were victims of identity theft, a crime that cost them roughly \$5 billion. Last year, Louisiana reported more than 1,300 complaints. If you have an identity theft complaint, please contact the U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General by calling 1-888-USPS-OIG (1-888-877-7644). ■

## Ryan-Jefferson Bill will Create Jobs and Boost Home Buying

In an economic study of the Ryan-Jefferson Mortgage Insurance Bill, H.R. 1336, which would make mortgage insurance tax deductible, economist John Tuccillo, Ph D., asserts specifically that home-buying will surge by an estimated 300,000 purchases each year, creating between 150,000 and 250,000 new U.S. jobs, specifically in the home building sector. U.S. Representatives Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and William Jefferson introduced the bill last year. The Financial Services Roundtable released the study, which was also endorsed by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.



*Jefferson announcing the launch of the With Ownership Wealth (WOW) Homeownership Program in New Orleans. Behind him are U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Deputy Secretary Alphonso Jackson, Mayor C. Ray Nagin and other local leaders. The WOW Program tries to connect potential home-buyers with home financing opportunities.*

“We are very pleased that so many of our colleagues have joined in support of this legislation,” said Congressman Jefferson. “With the release of this insightful and credible report, I believe that they will be encouraged to maintain this effort to help more American families achieve the American dream of homeownership. This report supports our belief that this legislation will help ensure that the momentum in home buying is sustained.”

Government and private mortgage insurance programs help first-time, low-income and veteran borrowers afford to purchase a home. The VA, FHA, RHA and PMI programs allow buyers to make a down payment of 3 percent or less of the appraised value. Mortgage insurance is a critical factor in allowing middle-income families and minorities to become homeowners.

In 2001, nationwide, mortgage insurance covered 57 percent of mortgage purchase loans made to African American and Hispanic borrowers and 54 percent of the loans to borrowers with incomes below the median income. Twelve million American families presently use mortgage insurance. ■



## Taking Care of Louisiana's Interests

Each day Congress is in session in Washington, I work for the best interests of the people of the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Congressional district and for Louisiana. I fight for our ports, our workers, our businesses – for our quality of life.

Every year, as Congress prepares the budget for the next fiscal year, I urge my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to include projects for my district. I work for Louisiana's fair share of federal funds – from research projects at local universities to hurricane and flood protection projects.

This year, we have been very successful in garnering support for fiscal year 2005 projects for our district, including the following:

The Defense appropriations bill, passed in June, provided \$2 million for an integrated bioenvironmental hazards research program – a research collaboration between the Office of Naval Research, the Naval Oceanographic Office, and the Center for Bioenvironmental Research at Tulane and Xavier Universities. The research program is designed to successfully develop technology that will enable bio-terrorism agents to be monitored in reservoirs, and through a watershed; harbors and coastal waters, like those in and around New Orleans, to be monitored for bio-terrorism agents; and will enable chemical concentrations to be rapidly mapped, tracked, and their sources quickly located.

The Defense bill also included \$1 million for a Center for Foreign Language Study at Dillard University. The Center will house the programs and infrastructure needed to graduate African-American students who can provide necessary language and foreign studies expertise for the U.S. military, intelligence agencies, diplomatic corps, international business concerns, non-governmental organizations and public health agencies.

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill provided some much needed funds for

hurricane protection and coastal restoration projects in and around the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional district. The Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration project will receive \$8 million in the 2005 fiscal year; Lake Pontchartrain hurricane protection project will receive \$7.5 million; Larose to Golden Meadow, LA will receive \$583,000; New Orleans to Venice, LA will receive over \$2.9 million; Southeast Louisiana (SELA) drainage project will receive \$35 million; and the Westbank hurricane protection project will receive \$37 million.

Another important request was for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock project – which will receive \$20 million next year - \$10 million more than the President's budget requested. The project will allow the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed on schedule to complete vital hurricane and flood protection projects in our area.

In the Department of Transportation Authorization bill, we were extremely successful in getting funding for our road and transportation efforts. The House approved \$2.5 million to widen the strip from LA 18 Northrup Grumman/Avondale Shipyards to US 90 in Jefferson Parish to four lanes; \$3 million to plan and construct pedestrian/bicycle crossings of the Washington-Palmetto Canal at Xavier University; \$500,000 to replace the Almonaster Bridge in New Orleans; \$300,000 to develop a master transportation plan for the New Orleans Regional Medical Center; \$1 million to plan and construct New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal inter-modal



facilities; \$2.5 million to conduct a multi-modal corridor study from Louis Armstrong International Airport to the Central Business District; \$200,000 to upgrade highway-rail crossings at Madison Street in Gretna; \$500,000 to construct a Mississippi River Trail and Bikepath in New Orleans; and \$3.5 million to widen and improve LaPalco Boulevard from Bayou Segnette to US 90 in Jefferson Parish, among other key provisions.

All of these projects are important to New Orleans and the metro area, important to the 2<sup>nd</sup> district, and in the best interest of Louisiana.

I will continue to fight for Louisiana's interests as the House moves to pass appropriations bills for the other federal government agencies. ■

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