

the
JEFFERSON

R E P O R T



U.S. House of Representatives

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Washington, D.C. 20515

AMERICA UNITES TO FIGHT

Jefferson Pledges Support for Local Anti-Terror Effort

Congressman William J. Jefferson has pledged total support for increased federal support for the efforts of local authorities to combat terrorism in the United States.

"I am committed to complete federal support of the local efforts to fight terrorism. I am heartened by the valiant and extra effort that our Louisiana National Guardsmen and local law enforcement authorities have made to guarantee safety in New Orleans and across Louisiana," Congressman William J. Jefferson said.

"My friends and neighbors who work in law enforcement and security have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that New Orleans is protected from terrorists attacks." New Orleans is the second largest port in the country and Louisiana has the largest concentration of oil and gas production and refineries in the nation, making it a prime terrorist target.

At the urging of Congressman Jefferson and the Louisiana delegation, the President has pledged that the experts within the Secret Service will oversee security for the Super Bowl.

Since September 11, 2001 the air defense of Gulf Coast states and the northern Gulf of Mexico have fallen into the hands Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing.

Based at the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station, "The Bayou Militia"

(LANG), has been on call 24/7, providing homeland air defense services for the North American Aerospace Command and the U.S. Central Command.

In addition, portions of the LANG fighter wing were called to full-time duty in Turkey beginning in December, 2001 where they the "Northern Watch no-fly zone" over Northern Iraq.

Besides the work of the LANG, other Louisiana National Guard units have been providing additional security forces at Louis Armstrong International Airport and at other strategic state and national facilities in Louisiana.

On the local level, the Office of Homeland Defense has called upon local fire and police units to meet national security alerts with extra effort and overtime.

"This extra effort taxes local revenues and will require additional support from the federal government," Jefferson said.

Congress Reforms Education

The U.S. Congress has approved education reform legislation that will require standardized math and reading tests during grades three-through-eight, significantly increase funding for primary and secondary education and provide extra assistance to troubled public schools.

"This means \$50 million to \$100 million more for schools in Louisiana with a large number of needs students, particularly New Orleans," Jefferson said.

Although Louisiana schools already have annual testing requirements, setting a national standard for is considered by some education experts as a significant achievement and may force some changes in Louisiana public schools.

The education reform legislation includes a \$26.5 billion annual commitment beginning in 2002, but some advocates of special education are concerned that full funding for special education needs could not be met.

Also, the legislation allows federal education assistance for school districts with poor performance records to shift funds for private tutoring or permit transfer and transportation assistance to better schools.

Bayou Militia On Call



Congressman William J. Jefferson congratulates Colonel Ben Soileau, commander of the 159th Fighter Wing of the Louisiana Air National Guard on the unit's stellar performance since the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. The "Bayou Militia," based at the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station, has provided homeland air defense patrols on a 24/7 basis, patrolling air space over the Gulf of Mexico and the southern United States. Since December, portions of the 159th Fighter Wing have been based in Turkey and will patrol the "Northern Watch no-fly zone" over Northern Iraq until March, 2002.

Photo by Burt Steele

Jefferson Leads on Bipartisan Trade Bill

Congressman William J. Jefferson led a bipartisan effort to develop and pass Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation that will improve Louisiana's economy and create jobs by opening new markets worldwide for the state's agricultural products and manufactured goods.

"Louisiana sold more than \$3.9 billion worth of exports in 100 foreign markets last year. This figure includes \$2.65 billion worth of manufactured goods. So, based on results from other free trade agreements, our state's economy can expect to see continued growth in sales of rice, cotton and soybeans as well as manufactured products as America reaches out to open new markets around the world." Jefferson predicted.

TPA gives the President the ability to negotiate trade agreements in accordance with congressionally mandated negotiating objectives.

Jefferson, a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, worked with leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives to craft a bill that, for the first time, requires that international trade agreements to encourage greater respect for core labor and environmental standards.

The TPA legislation passed the U.S. House on December 6, 2001 and a final vote is expected in the U.S. Senate early in 2002.

Trade Benefits Louisiana

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative show conclusively that Louisiana and the Port of New Orleans benefit greatly from international increasing trade with foreign markets.

GOOD FOR LOUISIANA'S ECONOMY

- Louisiana sold more than \$3.9 billion worth of exports to more than 100 foreign markets last year.
- Louisiana produced and exported more than \$2.65 billion worth of manufactured goods such as machinery, processed food, computers and electronics, petroleum and coal products and primary metal products.

GOOD FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESS

- The number of Louisiana exporting companies increased 61 percent from 1992 to 1998.
- And, more than 79 percent of those exporting companies in Louisiana are small- and medium-sized businesses.

GOOD FOR FARMERS AND WORKERS

- An estimated 81,800 Louisiana jobs depend upon manufactured exports.
- One in every eight manufacturing jobs in Louisiana – 22,800 jobs – is tied to exports.
- Wages of workers in jobs supported by exports are 13 to 18 percent higher than the national average.
- Roughly 7,300 Louisiana citizens hold jobs related to agriculture exports.
- Louisiana exported an estimated \$481 million in agricultural products in 1999.



Passage of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act during the 106th Congress led to talks between Congressman William J. Jefferson and President Festus Mogae of Botswana about improving trade relations between Louisiana and the United States.

C.O.P.S. Get \$27 Million in District

The U.S. Congress has earmarked another \$1.1 billion to fight crime through the Community Oriented Police Services (C.O.P.S) programs in 2002.

"This has been one of the most effective tools that the federal government has provided to fight crime. Involving local police at the grassroots level has done more to make our neighborhoods safe than any other government initiative that I have known," said Congressman William Jefferson who has been a staunch supporter of the program from the beginning in 1995.

For instance, the City of New Orleans received \$13 million to fund a variety of C.O.P.S. programs since 1995; \$10.2 million for Jefferson Parish; more than \$1.1 million for Kenner; almost \$750,000 for Gretna; more than \$500,000 for Orleans Levee District Police and nearly \$500,000 for other smaller law enforcement agencies.

In 2002, the \$1.1 billion will fund the C.O.P.S. in Schools program; a universal hiring program, community redeployment of police, improving crime fighting technology, crime prevention and prosecution assistance.

No Mail, So E-Mail or Fax

Due to public safety concerns created by the mid-October national anthrax scare, delivery of mail by the U.S. Postal Service to Washington, D.C. congressional offices has been suspended indefinitely.

Until the anthrax-related problems are resolved in Washington, D.C., please contact our office by e-mail or fax for prompt attention to your concerns. The e-mail is: jeffersonmc@mail.house.gov. The facsimile telephone number is: 202/225-1988.

Congress Tightens Airport Security

In a nearly unanimous vote, Congressman William J. Jefferson joined with colleagues in the U.S. Congress to approve legislation that sets security standards and creates a Federal aviation screening authority.

“American travelers need to be sure that there is a uniform standard for airport security and that the aviation screening employees nationwide are trained and enforce national standards,” Jefferson said.

“Aviation screening employees need to be properly trained and properly paid. There is no room for low bid, poorly trained employees when it comes to aviation security.

The “Aviation and Transportation Security Act,” passed in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York,

Washington and Pennsylvania contain several provisions. They are:

- The federal government takes over control of airport screening functions. Within one year, federal law enforcement agents screen all baggage and passengers.
- One airport in each of five (5) Federal Aviation Administration



Congressman William J. Jefferson discusses increased security measures at Louis Armstrong International Airport with Louisiana Army National Guardsman First Sgt. Kevin Allen. Sgt. Allen and other members of the Louisiana National Guard have been called to duty to provide additional security at key national and state facilities in Louisiana that might be targeted for a terrorist attack.

Photo by Burt Steele

(FAA) categories (Total: five airports) may continue to use private security screening programs.

- Requires a federal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of private and federal screening programs.
- After two years, local airports that meet strict federal guidelines can opt for private security companies.
- Requires that federal screeners be citizens of the United States.
- Requires that all baggage be screened for explosives by December 31, 2002.
- Expands the federal air marshal program and requires that cockpit doors be strengthened.
- Allows a pilot to be armed if they are trained and certified, obtain airline approval and meet Department standards.

- of Transportation
- Requires that individuals seeking flight instruction to submit to a background check, and an Immigration and Naturalization Service review for foreign students.
- Imposes a per ticket fee, not to exceed \$5, to pay for federal screeners.

Official U.S. Air Travel Tips

Congressman William J. Jefferson offers the following domestic air travel safety tips as suggested by the Airline Pilots Association, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

Remember to pack smart – pack safe. The items listed below are illegal in your possession and in carry-on luggage.

- Knives of any length, composition or description.
- All cutting or puncturing instruments – pocket knives, carpet knives, box cutters, ice picks, straight razors, metal scissors and metal nail files.
- Corkscrews.
- Weapon-like athletic equipment, like baseball/softball bats, golf clubs, pool cues, ski poles and hockey sticks.
- Weapons – firearms, ammunitions, gunpowder, mace, tear gas or pepper spray.
- Aerosol spray cans – hairspray, deodorant, insect repellent, or butane fuel (such as curling iron refills, scuba tanks, propane tanks, cartridges and self-inflating rafts).
- Explosives 00 fireworks, sparklers or signal flares.
- Flammable liquids of solids – fuel, paints, paint thinners, or cleaners, lighter fluid and perfume (no more than 16 oz.).
- Other hazardous items — dry ice, gas-powered tools, wet-cell batteries, camping equipment with fuel, radioactive materials, poisons, infectious substances.
- Leave gifts unwrapped. Airline security personnel open gifts if X-ray scan cannot determine.
- If in doubt, don't pack.

ALLOW EXTRA TIME:

- Arrive early, two hours before flight. Add more time if traveling with infants, children or the disabled. Extra security increases the time for check-in.
- Consider public transportation, if possible, Parking and curbside access will be controlled and limited.
- Curbside check-in is limited to specific airports and locations.
- Do not leave your car unattended in front of the terminal. Unattended cars will be towed.

AT THE AIRPORT:

- Watch bags and personal belongings at all times.
- Do not accept packages from strangers.
- Report unattended bags or packages in the airport terminal or parking area to airport security.
- Report suspicious activities or individuals in the airport or parking lot to airport security.
- **DO NOT JOKE ABOUT BOMBS OR FIREARMS. DO NOT DISCUSS TERRORISM, WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVE OR OTHER THREATS AT A CHECKPOINT. MERE MENTION OF THE WORDS “GUN” OR “BOMB” CAN COMPEL SECURITY TO DETAIN AND QUESTION YOU.**

CHECKING IN:

- Adults must bring a government issued ID. The FAA required ID such as a driver's license, passport or draft card.
- E-ticket travelers should check with the airline to determine proper documentation.
- Check with your airline about security measures for automated kiosks.
- Answer questions about your bags honestly. Criminals may be using unsuspecting passengers to carry bombs or other dangerous items onto aircraft.
- Be cooperative. Security personnel will search bags if the X-ray cannot determine its contents.

SCREENER CHECKPOINTS:

- Only ticketed passengers are allowed beyond screener checkpoints, unless parental oversight or a medical assistance is required.
- Passengers are limited to one carry-on bag and one personal item, e.g. purse or briefcase.
- Electronic items (e.g. laptops or cell phones) may be subject to additional screening. Be prepared to allow electronic items to be X-rayed separately.

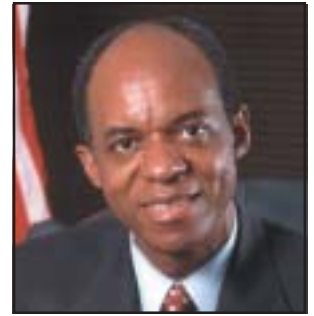
ON THE AIRPLANE:

- Listen to and obey flight attendant instructions.
- Note the closest exit.
- Wear your seatbelt.
- Report unattended items to the flight attendant.



New Priorities, New Hope for Peace

by Congressman William J. Jefferson



More than 100 days after the tragic terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, it is not an understatement to write that life has changed in America.

Just as Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor awakened the sleeping giant that eventually defeated the Berlin/Rome/Tokyo axis, Al Queda's monstrous air assaults on our homeland's shores awakened America.

Faced with the threat of terrorism spreading throughout the world unchallenged, America united with the world community to fight terror and restore civility around the world.

In short order, our superior air power and military strategy, coupled with surprisingly strong support from Afghan militia, has begun to dismantle the Al Queda terrorist network. The task will be time-consuming. It may take years, but America's new priority is to end terrorism, wherever it exists.

To aid the War Against Terrorism, Congress moved quickly to pass increased funding for our military and intelligence agencies, aviation and transportation security legislation and anti-terrorism legislation.

Unfortunately, America's new priority has forced the U.S. Congress to postpone work on many important issues that were priorities before September 11, 2001 – reform and

preservation of Social Security, creating a prescription drug benefit for Medicare, health care reform, telecommunications reform and development of a new energy policy for our country.

Although work on these important issues has been put on hold temporarily, our early successes in America's war on terrorism should allow Congress to refocus and renew its work to resolve these important issues and move our country forward once again.

Despite the shift in overall priorities, our delegation has been able to deliver important federal support to projects for the Second Congressional District and Louisiana.

The staff members of the Louisiana congressional delegation deserve some special recognition, particularly the staffs of Senators John Breaux and Mary Landrieu who have been working out of cramped and crowded temporary offices. The work of representing Louisiana has moved forward with good results, despite the fact that our offices have not received regular mail service for almost three months.

The federal transportation budget includes \$16 million to upgrade U.S. 90 as part of the I-49 project that will link Louisiana and Canada, \$7 million for a light rail

system that will link Louis Armstrong International Airport with downtown New Orleans, \$15 million to continue work on the Canal Street Streetcar project and \$1.2 million to continue the Desire Corridor Streetcar project.

In addition, during the final days of the First Session of the 107th Congress, our delegation won approval for: \$155 million for the LPD-17 program at Avondale; \$10 million for the Navy Information Technology Center at the University of New Orleans; \$10 million for an Armed Forces Reserve Center at the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans; and \$7 million for funding of the Maritime Technology Center of Excellence at Avondale Ship Yards.

These projects will help ensure continued economic prosperity in metropolitan New Orleans.

As we begin this new year, I am sure that Congress will continue its strong support for America's war against terrorism, and we will renew our work to address the important domestic issues that will allow our country to move forward once again – free and safe.

In this new year, I pray that our efforts together can return peace and civility to the world.

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 Congressman
William J. Jefferson
Home-Ownership Seminar
Coming March, 2002

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