



# *the* **JEFFERSON**

## R E P O R T

U.S. House of Representatives

October, 2003

Washington, D.C. 20515

### **Jobs Saved at Avondale**

Congressman Jefferson led his colleagues in the Louisiana delegation in successfully preventing the loss of jobs at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems (NGSS) restoring \$260 million to support the program. "This would have had a tremendous impact on our area because it would have meant the loss of over 2000 jobs," said Congressman Jefferson.

The President's proposal called for \$260 million in advanced procurement to be removed as well as the reduction of two ships per year through 2008 to one per year through 2010. A change of this nature would have forced procurement construction to be conducted at below minimum rates, thus increasing cost and manpower disruptions on the Gulfcoast shipyard complex.

The LPD 17 program is strongly supported by both the Navy and the Marine Corps and the Chief of Naval Operations declared it his number one ship priority. The 12 LPD-17 class ships will replace 41 aging amphibious lift ships in the current inventory. "This program is essential in deploying Marine expeditionary forces and vital to the ongoing and future campaign against terrorism," Congressman Jefferson's letter to President Bush read.

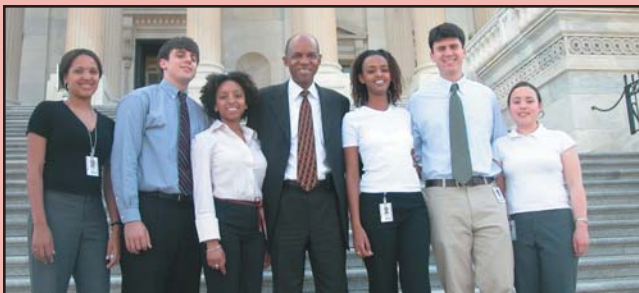
### **\$2 Million Sought to Fight Crime**



*Congressman William Jefferson and District Attorney Eddie Jordan are working overtime to secure federal funds to fight crime in New Orleans.*

Congressman Jefferson and New Orleans District Attorney Eddie Jordan met with Members of Congress to request funding to improve witness protection services and to aid with the backlog of cases in the Orleans Parish Criminal Courts by adding and retaining competent prosecutors. "This is very important to the New Orleans metropolitan area, particularly with the increase in crime and the recent killings of witnesses," said Congressman Jefferson.

In April, Congressman Jefferson submitted a formal request of \$2 million to be appropriated in the FY04 Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriation. Specifically, the request for the special appropriation of funds is to initiate a computerized expedited screening and advanced management system for the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office and help Mr. Jordan to retain a staff of prosecutors and legal professionals capable of disposition of a serious backlog of cases.



*Congressman William J. Jefferson received some help this summer when a few of the Metro Area's best and brightest joined his staff in Washington, D.C. as interns.*

## Money Secured for Flood Projects

Congressman Jefferson recently secured extra money for hurricane protection and flood control work when the U.S. House of Representatives voted to appropriate much-needed additional funds for these important security projects in the Second Congressional District.

“Despite shrinking federal revenues, my colleagues in the U.S. House were convinced of the importance of providing extra revenue for these vital flood control and hurricane protection projects,” said Congressman Jefferson. “They understand that completion of these projects as soon as possible is the top priority in the Second Congressional District.”

The U.S. House added money to the Administration’s budget request for two major hurricane protection projects and the Southeast Louisiana (SELA) flood control project.

- The West Bank Hurricane Protection project’s appropriation doubled from \$15 million to \$30 million.
- The Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection project received an appropriation of \$5 million, \$2 million more than the Administration’s \$3 million budget request.
- SELA’s appropriation nearly doubled from \$16.5 million to \$31.5 million.

In addition, the House appropriated \$12 million for the Industrial Canal Lock replacement project, instead of the Administration’s \$7 million request as well as \$125,000 to continue planning and design for the Rosethorn Basin levee protection on the West Bank of Jefferson.

The House also appropriated \$645,000 to continue a study on restoration of the Louisiana Coastal ecosystem and \$815,000 to complete a study of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and ecosystem restoration.



*Congressman Jefferson inspects work on the Napoleon Avenue SELA flood control project with Construction Inspector Leroy Smith (L) and Colonel Peter J. Rowan (R) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

## Airport Receives Largest Grant Ever



Congressman Jefferson spearheaded a successful campaign to urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to sup-

port Louis Armstrong International Airport’s grant application and resulted in an award of \$10.1 million for Fiscal Year 2003.

The grant provides an additional \$8.6 million for the rehabilitation of Runway 1/19 that is currently underway and is designed to completely rehabilitate the Airport’s North-South runway and parallel taxiway. The project includes the removal of the existing pavement, repair and replacement of damaged and deteriorated sections, and the installation of a concrete overlay. In addition, several other infrastructure improvements will be added while the runway is closed including two Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting vehicle access roads, a new taxiway connector, and an aircraft holding apron.

“This grant demonstrates the FAA’s confidence and commitment to the professional management at the New Orleans’ Louis Armstrong International Airport,” said Congressman Jefferson. “It represents a commitment to aviation safety at the airport; and it symbolizes the FAA’s commitment to maximize utilization of this facility as the long-term aviation center in metropolitan New Orleans. This strong commitment will continue to contribute to the growth of jobs and the economy of our region.”

Also included in the grant is \$1.5 million for the Noise Mitigation Program, which are funds to continue the sound insulation program that is currently ongoing.

## Jefferson Working For Community Development

Earlier this year, Congressman Jefferson announced that Liberty Bank & Trust Company and Advantage Capital Community Development Fund, L.L. were among two allocatees of 345 applicants nationwide selected to receive a tax credit allocation through the 2002 New Markets Tax Credit Program (NMTC) of the Department of Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund. Liberty Bank received \$50 million and Advantage Capital received \$150 million in NMTC. "I am very pleased about these allocations because they will incentivize businesses to invest in our poorest urban and rural communities," said Congressman Jefferson.

The NMTC is a tax credit to investors who make "qualified equity investment" in privately managed investment vehicles called "community development entities" or CDEs. The tax credit provided to the investor will cover a seven-year period. The credit provided to the investor totals 39 percent of the investment in a CDE and is claimed over the seven-year period. CDEs are required to invest the proceeds of the qualified equity investments in low-income communities.

Also, this month, Congressman Jefferson announced that Southern University of New Orleans (SUNO) was awarded a grant of \$550,000 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to revitalize the Bienville Corridor and its Catchment Area. "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," said Congressman Jefferson.

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.

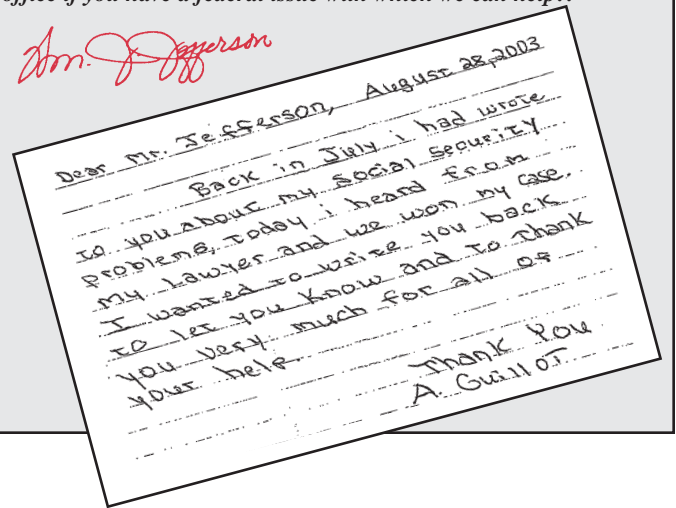


*In July, Congressman Jefferson held two town hall meetings with Senior Citizens in the Second Congressional District to discuss pending Medicare prescription drug legislation and other concerns.*

## We're Here to Help

*"We handle thousands of requests from constituents to help them with problems they have with the federal government, and we do our best to respond promptly and effectively. Call or write our office if you have a federal issue with which we can help!!"*

*Ann. Jefferson*



## Jefferson Hears Senior Citizens' Concerns about Medicare

This summer, Congressman Jefferson held his annual Seniors Day Town Hall Meetings. The meetings were held on July 1 which is the anniversary of the effectuation of Medicare and hundreds of seniors joined Congressman Jefferson to discuss their concerns regarding the controversial legislation that passed the U.S. House of Representatives.

"For the last 38 years Medicare has proven itself to be the most effective public health initiative for our senior citizens. It is important that we continue that success and build on the positives of the program by adding an affordable prescription drug benefit," said Congressman Jefferson.

Since its inception in 1965, Medicare has allowed senior citizens to enjoy healthier, longer lives. Americans life expectancy has risen by nearly three years and the percentage of seniors living in poverty has decreased by 60 percent.

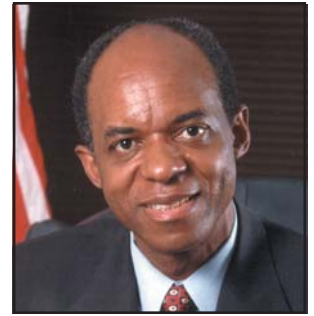
Congress recently passed Medicare legislation, but many are concerned that it falls short of meeting the needs of senior citizens because the prescription drug benefit may prove to be unaffordable for many and force seniors to move into HMOs and other private insurance plans.

"It is clear that adding an affordable, guaranteed prescription drug benefit to Medicare will improve the quality of life for millions of elderly and disabled beneficiaries, at a reduced cost to taxpayers, while making Medicare competitive with private plans. Because of that we need the strongest prescription drug bill possible, including one with low co payments, low deductibles, low premiums, and guaranteed benefits," said Congressman Jefferson



## Education Cuts Are Unfair to Our Children

by *Congressman William J. Jefferson*



**W**ith the adoption of the Elementary and Secondary School Act in 1965 came the assurance that all our nation's children would receive a quality education, irrespective of status or wealth. Lyndon B. Johnson stated that Congress, with the passage of ESSA, had finally taken the most significant step of this century to provide help to all schoolchildren and aid "five million children of poor families overcome their greatest barrier to progress: poverty."

In an attempt to build on this assurance, the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This historic bipartisan legislation was a promise to America's parents, America's educators and America's children. It was a promise to focus on improving quality and accountability in public schools and a promise to increase funding to help schools achieve those goals. Unfortunately, those promises are not being realized.

According to reports, this year, a record 53.7 million students will be enrolled in our nation's elementary and secondary schools. Unfortunately, severe state budget cuts are undermining the ability of states and local school districts to remedy the persistent problems that limit the quality of education we are able to offer to our students: overcrowded and dilapidated schools; overburdened teachers and increased class sizes; inadequate support services like special education, after-school care and preschool. States are being forced to reduce resources to local school districts, resulting in shorter school days and school years and massive layoffs of teachers. More aptly, schools across America are being forced to do more with less.

Historically, the federal government has stepped in when states have needed help providing quality education to their citizens. Unfortunately, this is now being threatened. Last July, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Labor/HHS Education Appropriations Bill. And, regrettably, it shortchanges many of the key prom-

ises made to America's parents and children in the bipartisan NCLB. With the recent passage of the House education bill, only a 4.3 percent increase was provided for education, which represents the smallest dollar increase in five years and the smallest percentage increase in eight years.

More importantly, the bill underfunds the landmark NCLB by \$8 billion. As a result, the cuts in education funding for the children of Louisiana will total \$207,972,407 below the levels authorized by the NCLB and IDEA Reauthorization Act.

Title I is the primary program that helps school districts enrolling low-income children meet the new accountability mandates of the NCLB. Yet, more than half of all poor children eligible for additional intensive instruction in key academic subjects under Title I will go completely unserved because the education funding bill falls \$6 billion short. Schoolchildren in Louisiana will lose \$143,200,000 in Title I grants.

Additionally, 54,000 teachers will not receive the high-quality professional development and training they were promised to better serve their students because the bill cuts teacher training by nearly a quarter billion dollars, falling \$244 million short of the \$3.2 billion promised in 2002 to

states for improving teacher quality. Louisiana will lose \$7,489,000 in Teacher Quality grants.

Across the country, over one million children will find their schoolhouse doors locked to their pre-school, after-school and weekend programs because of inadequate funding, falling 43 percent short of the level promised in the NCLB. These programs have proven critical to reform, drastically reducing exposure to high-risk behaviors that get Louisiana kids into serious trouble, and proven essential to helping our kids improve their educational performance. However, Louisiana will lose \$16,195,000 in After-School Program funding.

Many agree that money alone will not improve our schools. But money and reform must go hand in hand, as promised when the NCLB was enacted. Growing enrollments, shrinking state budgets and the stagnant economy have placed great burdens on our elementary and secondary institutions and we must provide them with the help they desperately need.

Soon, the Labor/HHS bill will go to conference and I will continue to work with my Colleagues in the House and the Senate to fight to ensure that promises made in the NCLB are realized.

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