

phenomena such as fires, climate change, damage to the ozone layer, etcetera.

4. Change U.S. trade policies to discourage actions abroad that contribute to desertification.

5. Support coordination between scientists, government agencies, NGOs and localities to develop useful technologies and methodologies to prevent and combat desertification.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF JESSE HOLMAN JONES

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the efforts of Houston Endowment Inc. to highlight the life of Jesse Holman Jones, who during his lifetime was widely known as one of the most powerful leaders in the nation, and because of his vast contributions to the growth of the City of Houston, became known as "Mr. Houston."

On November 10, 1998, Houston Endowment Inc. will host a Centennial Celebration of the remarkable contributions of Jesse Holman Jones, beginning with a champagne reception followed by the world premiere of the documentary, "Brother, Can You Spare a Billion? The Story of Jesse H. Jones."

Jesse H. Jones was born in Tennessee but moved to Texas at the age of seventeen, first working in a lumberyard for his uncle, then later establishing his own 60 lumberyards across the Southwest. As an extension of the lumberyards, he began building small houses south of downtown Houston, which he financed for working class families by offering 20-year mortgages, a new concept at the time. He eventually progressed to commercial structures, and in 1907 he announced that he would build the city's three tallest buildings. The nine-story Bristol Hotel, Houston's first "skyscraper", elevated Houston's stature; the 10-story Houston Chronicle Building brought Mr. Jones half interest in a thriving newspaper; and the 10-story Texas Company Building helped make Texaco and the petroleum industry a permanent part of the city's business community. Within 25 years, he had transformed Houston's Main Street and downtown into the region's most prominent business district, filled with office buildings, movie theaters, hotels, apartment buildings, department stores, and parking garages.

Mr. Jones' role in developing Houston's economy was as important as his role in building its skyline. He invested in local banks and became Chairman of the National Bank of Commerce, later to become Texas Commerce Bank and today's Chase Bank of Texas. His portrait still hangs in the majestic lobby of the bank's flagship office. Through his banking interests, Mr. Jones helped industrialize and internationalize Houston. He supported other growing industries, such as the radio and television industry, while convincing the federal government to enter into a public-private partnership to build the Houston Ship Channel, which today includes the Port of Houston, the nation's second busiest port. Such public-private partnerships were unheard of at the time.

Mr. Jones attracted the attention of President Woodrow Wilson and accepted the position of Director General of Military Relief for

the American Red Cross. After the war, Mr. Jones helped reorganize the Red Cross from a loose-knit group of local societies into the permanent international relief agency it is today. In addition, in 1928 as Finance Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, he brought the party's national convention to Houston, the first major political convention to be held in the South since before the Civil War.

When the stock market crashed and the nation plunged into the Great Depression, Mr. Jones called the city's business leaders together and worked out a plan that prevented any bank failures in Houston during the Great Depression. Mr. Jones' business and financial insight were called upon when President Herbert Hoover asked him to serve on the board of the newly created Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC); President Franklin Roosevelt expanded the RFC's powers and made Mr. Jones its chairman. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), and the Export-Import Bank are only a few of the many enduring agencies created by Mr. Jones and the RFC.

Mr. Jones would go on to be Secretary of Commerce during the "New Deal" and today scholars give Jesse Jones credit for saving the American capitalist economy, for mobilizing industry in time to fight and win World War II, and for radically changing the relationship between government, business and citizens.

After 14 years of public service in Washington, DC, Jesse Jones had won the respect of Democrats and Republicans alike, as he exercised his authority with diplomacy, patience, and equity. He and his wife, Mary Gibbs Jones, returned to Houston in 1946 and began to focus on philanthropy. By the time Jesse Holman Jones passed away on June 1, 1956, Houston Endowment Inc., the foundation he created in partnership with his wife, Mary, had helped more than 4,000 students through scholarship programs in 57 colleges and universities. Just months before he passed away, the town of 40,000 he came to in 1898 had obtained its one millionth citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Houston Endowment Inc. for reminding Houstonians of the life of Jesse H. Jones, one of our most prominent citizens.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4101,  
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 1998*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my extreme disappointment in the President's threats to veto the FY 99 Agriculture Appropriations bill. This is legislation which will provide much needed aid for cashed-strapped farmers this fall.

American farmers are by far the most productive in the world. These hard working men and women epitomize every value that makes America great. They run their business on a dream and hard work with a constant concern

over the weather conditions, hoping for a good crop. During a bad season, some pray daily to be able to put food on the table for their families. Now, after a season of low commodity prices and bad weather, the Democrats are looking to eliminate the emergency aid to those who grow our nation's food supply by urging the President to veto the FY 99 Agriculture Appropriations Act. This is unacceptable.

The fact is, the House more than doubled the only request received from the President, from \$1.8 billion to \$4.2 billion for emergency aid to help farmers. It is irresponsible for the President to play partisan politics with people's lives.

Mr. Speaker this is no time to play politics. I urge the President to rise above the temptation to exploit this issue for his political advantage and sign the FY 99 Agriculture Appropriations Act into law.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
JERRY SOLOMON

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB STUMP**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 1998*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I've been pleased to call JERRY SOLOMON of New York my friend for 20 years.

JERRY SOLOMON was the guy you always wanted on your side in a legislative battle. You always knew where he stood. You always knew his word was his bond.

It was as if he never left the Marine Corps, and in his mind he probably never did. JERRY SOLOMON wore an American flag pin on his lapel and his love of country on his sleeve. Few members could match his tenacity and his sense of loyalty. Never were those qualities more on display than when the House acted on national defense and veterans matters.

More recently we've seen another side of JERRY SOLOMON. It was his sense of fair play. His chairmanship of the Rules Committee made him the legislative traffic cop in the House. He took his role seriously, and his integrity earned him the respect of majority and minority alike.

His idol was Ronald Reagan, whose determination to rebuild our military found its staunchest House advocate in JERRY SOLOMON. Our sons and daughters in the military have always been very special to him. He wanted nothing but the best for them both during and after their service.

Veterans have no greater friend than JERRY SOLOMON. He enjoyed a close relationship with that other giant of veterans' legislation, our former colleague and committee chairman Sonny Montgomery of Mississippi. Their collaboration was a golden period for America's veterans and an inspiration for those of us who followed them.

JERRY SOLOMON's proudest moment was that brisk October day at Fort McNair in 1988 when President Reagan signed into law his bill elevating the Veterans Administration to a full, cabinet-level department. That will be his lasting legacy and monument.

We will miss his passion, his perseverance, and his patriotism. "Semper Fi" was never just