

most successful cemeteries in the area. They had a special ability to comfort and console others in their time of need.

Mrs. Fields was a true child of Texas. She was born in Pearsall, TX, and graduated from Aldine High School. The eldest child in her family, she helped raise her siblings after her father died when she was 9. Nothing in her life was more important to her than her family. An example of her loving spirit can be found in her custom of cooking dinner for her family and other relatives after church each Sunday.

Mrs. Fields touched numerous lives through Rosewood. But she touched even more as a respected citizen of the community, church attendee, and as a family beacon. Her love and steady direction served as an inspiration to her children, and with Jack, made her the mother of an esteemed U.S. Congressman. Jesse Faye Fields will be remembered as a devoted wife, loving mother, and cherished citizen of her community.

STRONG STUDENT VISA SYSTEM CRITICAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the February 4, 2002, editorial from the Omaha World-Herald entitled "Loosey Goosey Borders IV."

This editorial is one in a series of editorials published by the Omaha World-Herald which illuminate why it is entirely appropriate for the U.S. to enact strict immigration laws and, subsequently, to actively enforce those laws. Specifically, this editorial focuses upon the student visa system.

Indeed, the U.S. should be pleased that its higher education system attracts many foreign students, and, while it is important to continue the student visa system to bring vibrancy and diversity to universities and colleges, those interests must continuously and consistently be balanced against U.S. security interests. Failure to do so could place American lives at risk to terrorist attacks—among other threats—committed by those in the U.S. fraudulently under the guise of educational purposes.

Even with the strictest possible enforcement of visa controls, the system will always be susceptible to visa fraud. However, that does not mean that the U.S. should throw up its hands in surrender and throw open its borders.

[Omaha World-Herald, Feb. 4, 2002]

LOOSEY GOOSEY BORDERS IV

Slow progress is made in controlling foreign student visas.

Progress on tightening up the United States' free-and-easy borders has been slow but steady since Sept. 11—not spectacular, but at least things are moving.

Before the terrorist attack, student visas were issued to foreign nationals, some of whom came to this country and, in essence, disappeared into the general population. The Immigration and Naturalization Service didn't check whether they actually went to school or whether they left after their education was done.

Things changed on Sept. 11. Security became a greater concern. The INS is setting

up a computer system to track student visa holders. The agency has been struggling with a system for years, but it appears that it will be in place, INS officials said, by 2003.

The tracking system is not without its critics. A group dealing with foreign students withdrew its opposition after the September attack, but many individual schools have expressed the concern that a tracking system will discourage foreign students.

Security trumps that concern. So long as a student visa is the gateway to an easy and unmonitored existence in the United States for people whose motives might be other than scholarship, this is a security matter. If keeping tabs on foreign students discourages a few from coming to the United States or inconveniences a college's administration, too bad.

Besides the INS system, the Senate is expected to join the House soon in passing legislation that, among other things, would forbid the issuance of student visas to anyone from a country that sponsors terrorism unless the State Department investigates and approves the individual.

Some local INS offices are on the ball, too. Omaha-based INS officials, for instance, have been in contact with colleges and universities within their jurisdiction. But not all INS offices across the country have been as aggressive.

Better monitoring of guests to discourage those who would abuse the privilege is not onerous or unreasonable. Rather, these precautions are sensible and understandable in light of the credible threat terrorism poses to Americans. The faster security can be improved, the better for the nation.

MASSACHUSETTS SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES JAJUGA'S ELO- QUENT TRIBUTE TO HIS MOTHER

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened last week to learn of the death of Sophie Jajuga, the mother of my good friend James Jajuga, the Secretary of Public Safety for Massachusetts and a former State Senator.

At the funeral service for his mother on February 5 at St. Lucy's Church in Methuen, Massachusetts, Secretary Jajuga delivered an eloquent tribute to his mother that deeply touched me and all others who were present. He described in vivid terms the lifelong love and support that Mrs. Jajuga gave to her family.

Secretary Jajuga's beautiful eulogy to his mother should be of interest to all of us. I ask for unanimous consent to submit it to the record:

Good morning, on behalf of my entire family, I want to thank you for attending this beautiful service here at St. Lucy's this morning, as well as for the many kindnesses you have extended to me and to both the Bednez and Jajuga families over the past few days. I would also like to thank Fr. Loscocco for his support and guidance during this difficult time and for celebrating today's mass, and Camille Peters for her beautiful voice and organ playing.

I was asked by my family to share with you some thoughts about my mother, Sophie, and am both humbled and honored to do so with you now.

In life we tend to take some things for granted. One of these things is that our mother will always be there for us, in good

times and, especially, in bad times. No one shares a child's happiness, pain, or sorrow, more than his or her mother. No one understands more how a child is feeling—really feeling deep down inside—than his or her mother.

My mother, Sophie, was a wonderful mother to me and to my two sisters, Jane and Mary. We grew up in Haverhill and moved to Lawrence. Some of us took that move better than others, but that is a story for another day . . .

A story I would like to share with you today that exemplifies the kind of person my mother was is this: When we were young children things would disappear from our house, "things" like clothes, dolls and toys, and, of course, my favorite jacket that I had only worn for a short period of time. Finally, mother told us that she had been sending our personal belongings to our relatives back in Poland because, in her own words "they need them more than you do!" When we came home from school or play, we never knew what would be missing next, and if we really valued something we knew we better find a very good hiding place to keep it safe from mother's reach.

Mother called all of us "Honey" or "Dear" and when she did call us by name it was usually someone else's name. In fact, for a while there I really wasn't sure whether my name was "Jimmy", "Stanley," or "Eddie," because she called me all three names regularly! She continued to do this with the grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well.

My mother loved us all—her children, her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, her brothers, Stanley and Eddie, her sister, Helen, and her many dear friends. Sophie's love knew no bounds. She loved to laugh, and she especially loved to spend time with her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. She used to play cards with the grandchildren, a variation of the game of poker called "No Peek." A game where no one was supposed to look at the cards. But of course she would always peek. They'd call her on it all the time, but she would swear that she only saw one card, when they knew she had seen them all. But they always let her get away with it.

I asked everyone in the family, including the grandchildren, what they felt were mother's strongest attributes. By unanimous proclamation they all agreed her greatest strengths were her kindness, her generosity, and her thoughtfulness.

My mother never had a bad word to say about anybody. She was always there ready to help out whoever needed it. She did not—could not—say no to anyone, no matter what was asked of her and regardless of her own situation. She shared whatever she had with others unselfishly. She never asked for anything in return.

She was a gentle woman.

She went out of her way to show she cared, always putting family and friends first even before herself.

Today, we say goodbye—for now—and though we are all deeply saddened by her untimely passing, we are comforted in our firm belief that she is in a better place, reunited with our father and with those members of our family who have gone before us.

Ma, thank you for a lifetime of memories that we will cherish forever. Thank you for always being there for all of us. We love you, we miss you, and we all look forward to playing "No Peek" with you again someday.

God bless you, Ma, and God bless you all.