“As long as I’m around, there’s not going to be a Senate Foreign Relations Committee that rubber stamps dangerous arms control treaties while sending blank checks to the UN and embracing Fidel Castro....They’ve got to deal with that right-winger from North Carolina until well into the twenty-first century, the Lord willing.”

Senator Jesse Helms, 1997
Message From the President

JOHN DODD


The stories were all over the map the year that Jesse Helms became the powerful Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The national media quickly tried to pin Helms down as being an extremist, an uninformed leader, or a spiteful politician. He was, of course, none of the above, but that never stopped his detractors from claiming so.

One thing quickly became clear to everyone watching in 1995 - Helms wasn’t going to turn his back on the conservative principles he had championed during his previous 22 years in the Senate.

He became a firm voice for a principled foreign policy. He spoke out against the communist thugs in Cuba, authoring the Helms-Burton Act.

He defended our nation’s men and women in uniform by protecting them from the International Criminal Court. He brought directly needed reform to the United Nations by speaking out boldly at the United Nations Security Council.

In short, he was a force to reckon with. I remember those days well as Helms’ tenacious hold on his beliefs guided him through his most difficult decisions.

We hold that spirit alive here at the Jesse Helms Center. As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of Jesse Helms taking the reins as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, we are excited to still be educating young people on conservative foreign policy and the vital importance of the free enterprise system.

We’re also exposing countless people to these important principles through our Jesse Helms Lectures at The Heritage Foundation and other locations. It’s these initiatives and more that help keep the spirit of the late Senator alive, and we couldn’t do it without your support.
Participants in our Wingate University session visited the Helms Center on a field trip during FELC.

Over 90 students participated in our Palm Beach Atlantic University camp. It was a session that saw a 35% growth in participation!

Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge 2014

Above: Students from the embassy in El Salvador traveled to participate in our Palm Beach Atlantic session.

Right: Cousins Kira Howard and Anna Chadwick at our Campbell University session.

Above: Heather Pfitzenmaier, Director of the Young Leaders program at The Heritage Foundation spoke to participants at our Hillsdale College session in Michigan.

All FELC photos by: Laurel Littler.
Senator Helms always called our nation’s free enterprise system the ‘Miracle of America.’ The almost 400 students from 20 states and three foreign countries who attended the 19th annual Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge learned that the miracle is a real possibility!

WINGATE UNIVERSITY
NC | JUNE 15-19

Students heard from guest speakers Pearce Godwin of the Listen First Project; Derrick Nantz, Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Wake Tech; Dennis Moser, Founder and President of Moser Realty Group and a former Helms Center board member; and Karen Woods, pastor and longtime friend of the Helms Center. Additionally, they established and ran their own businesses.

PALM BEACH ATLANTIC
FL | JULY 6-10

This year, we developed a special relationship with the Job Creators Network (JCN), an organization that provides non-partisan education tools to help business owners inform their employees about how government policies affect their workplace. JCN sponsored seven students from the Latin Builders Academy. And through a special partnership at the American Embassy in San Salvador we welcomed students from El Salvador to this session.

Guest speakers included David Hernandez, CEO of Liberty Power and Dawn Fotopulos, author, King’s College professor, and founder of bestsmallbizhelp.com.

HILLSDALE COLLEGE
MI | JULY 13-17

Our second year in Michigan brought students from Michigan as well as Texas, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Illinois, Virginia, Nevada, Mexico, and Luxembourg. Students heard from Ray Noothstine, Associate Editor at the Acton Institute and Heather Pfitzenmaier, Director of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation. Director of Admissions, Fred Schebor, also spoke with students about the possibility of attending Hillsdale.

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
NC | JULY 20-24

Our final camp of the summer brought an intense competition between student companies. Guest speakers included previous FELC speakers Godwin and Nantz as well as Helms Center board member and grandson of the late Sen. Jesse Helms, Mike Stuart.

To be added to our mailing list so you can receive updates about our 2015 summer camps, please send an email to Lindsay@jessehelmscenter.org.
Honoring a Helms Center Friend

FREE ENTERPRISE LEADERSHIP GRADUATE AND LONGTIME COUNSELOR REAGAN HARTLEY

On April 3, Reagan Hartley was killed by a drunk driver in a wrong-way head-on collision. Hartley was a graduate of the Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge who went on to work as a counselor for the program for three consecutive summers. She had made plans to return as a counselor for a fourth year after her graduation from Western Carolina this spring.

Hartley was a passionate conservative who took her faith and her country’s freedom seriously. As a teen, she was an active member of the Johnston County Young Republicans. And when she went to college, she remained active in the College Republicans. Whether participating in mock presidential debates on her college campus or volunteering for campaigns, Hartley did it all with a smile on her face. She was equally as passionate about her career path and looked forward to entering the classroom this fall after extensive student teaching in western North Carolina.

Per the family’s wishes, the Reagan Hartley Memorial Scholarship Fund was created at the Jesse Helms Center to honor Reagan’s memory and assist young people who want to attend FELC.

Memorials to the Reagan Hartley Scholarship Fund, supporting FELC, can be sent to the Jesse Helms Center, PO Box 247, Wingate, NC 28174.

Counselor Reagan Hartley (far right) with her Wingate company in 2012.

Reagan Hartley, second from right, as a FELC student in 2009.
Helms Foreign Policy School
STUDENTS FROM LIBERTY UNIVERSITY’S HELMS SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT ATTEND WASHINGTON, D.C. PROGRAM

This past spring, over 25 students from Liberty University’s Helms School of Government traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Jesse Helms Center’s annual Helms Foreign Policy School. Founded in 2004, Helms Foreign Policy School offers a two-day intensive look at the theory and practical application of conservative foreign policy principles and how to best communicate policy positions based on those principles. The program details Helms’ views on foreign policy and offers several sessions targeted at understanding the reasons for Helms’ success as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Additional sessions offer briefings on current foreign relations issues, career advice for those interested in pursuing a path in foreign policy, and advice on communicating a foreign policy position.

Speakers during this year’s program included Robert Wilkie, Helms Center Board Member and former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs under Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates; Stephanie Kittredge, Communications Director for U.S. Rep. Peter Roskam; Dan Fisk, Vice President for Policy and Strategic Planning at the International Republican Institute; and Deanna Funderburk, Legislative Affairs Specialist and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Policy.

At the end of the second day, students presented briefings and recommendations for current foreign policy challenges facing the United States.
REMEMBERING FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER CLARK GOODWIN

The Jesse Helms Center has lost an important friend and founding board member, Clark Goodwin. Clark was a Monroe native who grew up three houses away from Jesse Helms and served as Chairman of the Helms Center board for many years. He was the acting board treasurer at his passing.

After high school, Clark attended Wingate College, taking night classes there before enrolling in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Goodwin was a strong proponent of the free enterprise system and made a career in banking, returning to Monroe in 1983 to start the Bank of Union. His leadership in the community extended to many local organizations and included serving on the board of Wingate University for over 46 years.

In 2010, the Jesse Helms Center jointly honored Clark, and long-time board member C.C. (Dick) Dickson, by renaming the original Jesse Helms Center headquarters (previously known as the Hinson House and currently serving as the Wingate Town Hall) as the Dickson-Goodwin house, in honor of Clark’s and Dick’s outstanding contributions to the Helms Center and the community.

In January 2014, he was honored as Union County Man of the Year. In a 2013 article in the Monroe Enquirer-Journal, he credited his community service to his mother. “She always instilled in us if you’re going to take something from a community, you always give something back,” he said. He leaves behind his wife Cynthia, four children, and four grandchildren. We were honored by Clark’s friendship and support for the Helms Center, and he will be greatly missed.

CONSERVATIVE CHAMPION AIDS JESSE HELMS CENTER MISSION WITH SUBSTANTIAL ESTATE LEGACY GIFT

This summer, the Jesse Helms Center received a $50,000 legacy gift from Dorothy Bursey. She was a long-time resident of Sanford, North Carolina and a strong advocate of the Jesse Helms Center.

Mrs. Bursey was born in Missouri and graduated from St. Mary’s Academy at Notre Dame before meeting her husband, Reese Bursey. They had one son, Thomas Bursey, who battled Muscular Dystrophy before succumbing to the disease at the young age of 24.

Reese Bursey was a nuclear engineer who worked on the famed “Manhattan Project” before settling in at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Bursey, already a conservative activist, soon began work in the Nixon White House.

In 1979, the Burseys moved to Sanford, North Carolina, and she quickly became immersed in local politics. She served as the Lee County Chairman for Jesse Helms and was inducted into the North Carolina GOP Hall of Fame in 1999.

In 2006, she notified the Jesse Helms Center that it was her intent to make the organization a benefactor of her will.

She wrote, “I have made a bequest in my Trust to The Dorothy Helms Society. I hope, modest though it is, it will be of some help to the Center.”

Though we mourn the loss of a great friend and supporter, we are honored to receive such a substantial gift, and we pledge to use those funds to reach more young people and teach them about the principles Mrs. Bursey and Senator Helms shared.

If you wish to join The Dorothy Helms Society and leave a legacy gift, please contact Brian Rogers at (704) 233-1776, ext. 4.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
For more information visit www.jessehelmscenter.org.

BB&T LECTURE SERIES AT WINGATE UNIVERSITY
October 30 (Wingate, NC)
Dawn Fotopulos, Associate Professor of Business at The King’s College (NYC) and Founder of BestSmallBizHelp.com, will deliver the fall 2014 lecture.

HELMS FOREIGN POLICY SCHOOL
Spring 2015 (Washington, DC)
College students will learn the basics of a conservative foreign policy from top Washington leaders and policy makers.

FREE ENTERPRISE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE SUMMER 2015 CAMPS
Dates to be announced this fall. Registration for summer programs will open in December. Look for camp locations in North Carolina, Florida, and more!

FELC 20TH ANNIVERSARY
Join us in 2015 as we celebrate twenty years of free enterprise education! Starting as a small summer camp, FELC has grown to a national vision. Special event to be announced.