“The Jesse Helms Center will fascinate and inform many future generations. Above all, it will serve to remind them of the unswerving values that Senator Helms has embodied during his distinguished life of service.”

Lady Baroness Margaret Thatcher
Message from the President

JOHN DODD ON CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE JESSE HELMS CENTER

Happy 25th Anniversary! Without your commitment to the mission of the Jesse Helms Center, we would not be celebrating this momentous year. Thank you for believing in us and for standing with us.

Inside this newsletter you'll find an overview of what we've accomplished over the last 25 years. As I spent time reviewing the stories behind our success, I felt very proud of what you helped us accomplish. I personally have been a part of the Helms Center for 19 years and have seen first hand the impact we've made in the lives of people in North Carolina and beyond.

While reminiscing about the past is rewarding, I'm more excited about our future. We have so much planned, and our mission is clear; advance the conservative principles of limited government, personal responsibility, and freedom to the American people, especially the younger generation.

We are making history in 2013 by hosting five Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge sessions in four states. In fact, new this year is Hillsdale College, the premier conservative college in the United States. By hosting five sessions in North Carolina, Texas, Florida and Michigan, we will enable more students from across the U.S. to receive hands-on training in the principles of free enterprise. In fact, we expect to have students from over 20 different states attend this year’s FELC sessions. We are also developing a new online FELC curriculum so we can reach thousands of students and teachers each year.

In addition to FELC, we'll release what we believe will be a ground breaking public policy report on how government economic policies have contributed to the breakdown of the family. We'll also conduct special foreign policy schools for college students and further develop the recently launched UN Transparency project, which educates hundreds of thousands of American citizens and elected officials on the importance of protecting our national sovereignty.

The Jesse Helms Center is certainly making a difference. The past 25 years couldn’t have happened without you, and we are so very grateful. But much work is left to be done. And, God willing, we hope you’ll continue your journey with us for the next 25!
Dear Helms Center Friends,

It seems just like only yesterday that Jesse approached Dr. Paul Corts, then President of Wingate University, and asked him if the school would accept his Senate papers. When it became clear that the Jesse Helms Center would develop and become sustainable as its own non-profit organization, the organization became the custodian of the papers and began developing a clear mission. I must tell you that Jesse and I took great care in deciding what type of organization we wanted to bear his name.

It was important then and it is important now; we must focus on our young people. So many have shared stories about the time Jesse spent with young people and the unique access he gave them to the Senate floor. I know, because I was there, and he was always so proud to make such an important difference in the life of a young person.

At the Jesse Helms Center, programs like the Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge were created to teach our young people core free enterprise and constitutional principles. A few years ago, I visited with the students in this program, and I was just as impressed as I was when the program started in 1995.

Additionally, our lecture series has featured some of the most prominent leaders in our nation so that our young people are able to learn from them. I know that, like me, you are concerned about the future of our great republic. I spend a lot of time praying God’s blessing on our land. Just as I believed that God opened the doors for Jesse to run and win in the U.S. Senate, I believe that he continues to bless the Jesse Helms Center.

John Dodd and his staff do an outstanding job of not only promoting the historical legacy of Jesse, but also promoting the principles he believed in to the most vulnerable, our young people. I’ve told John over and over that we must continue to do more to reach our young folks before it is too late. While it seems our nation’s current leadership does not believe in the free enterprise system as we do, we must remember to do our best to defend it. As Jesse used to tell me, the good Lord doesn’t expect you to win every time, but he does expect you to try.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for the Jesse Helms Center. We have accomplished so much, but there is more to do. I pray you consider how much you can do to help advance our mission. Together, we are changing lives and, in so doing, impacting our nation. I’m excited about the potential to transform our nation and our young people over the next 25 years.

Bet Helms
A Silver Anniversary: Celebrating 25 Years

On Saturday, April 20, the Jesse Helms Center hosted a 25th Anniversary Celebration at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, where we inducted a new member to our free enterprise hall of fame and honored some of North Carolina’s newest conservative leaders.

Congressmen Richard Hudson (8th district); Robert Pittenger (9th district); Mark Meadows (11th district); and George Holding (13th district) were recognized during the evening for their strong commitment to “Helmsian” principles.

During the dinner, Alan T. Dickson was inducted into the Charles A. Cannon Free Enterprise Hall of Fame. Mr. Dickson was a North Carolina native and a major community leader who, along with his brother, Stuart, built the Ruddick Corporation (the owner of the Harris Teeter grocery store chain), which was named by Fortune Magazine as one of our nation’s top companies.

The keynote speaker for the evening was political analyst and journalist, Michael Barone of Fox News, Townhall.com, and the American Enterprise Institute.

Proceeds of the dinner benefited the Helms Center’s Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge, a summer camp for high school students that immerses them in the world of free enterprise. The program is expanding to offer five programs in four states in summer of 2013.
In 1993, after five years on the Wingate University campus, the Helms Center opens its doors in the old 'Hinson House.'

The Jesse Helms Center Turns 25!

Above: Senator Bill Frist visiting with students and reporters during one of the many distinguished Jesse Helms Lecture Series events in the center's 25-year history.


Left: FELC, started in 1995, has now expanded to offer five sessions in four states and has trained over 6,500 students!
Iron Lady and

ROBERT WILKIE, FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND JESSE HELMS CENTER BOARD MEMBER, SHARES HIS THOUGHTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THATCHER THIS SPRING.

In the 1970s, Great Britain was on the eve of destruction. I saw it as a young American dependent on a British army base. Soviet-backed labor unions held the nation hostage. The suffocating maw of the welfare state drew the life out of the people, and the socialist Labour government timorously accepted Britain’s devolution to Third World status.

When I came home to North Carolina, many of those snarled pathologies were made manifest in the person of Jimmy Carter, who openly questioned the vitality of the American people and the global relevance of the United States.

Out of the depths emerged two remarkable leaders. One was a Methodist grocer’s daughter and the other a Baptist sheriff’s son — separated by an ocean but united in an unapologetic devotion to the belief that Western civilization, embodied in the two great English-speaking powers, was worth celebrating and defending. Britain and America created the notion of a limited government in which the democratic impulse was balanced by political traditions resting on order, faith, liberty and justice.

Lady Margaret Thatcher pictured above with Senator Jesse Helms during her lecture at Wingate University as part of the Jesse Helms Center’s 2001 grand opening of the A.J. Fletcher Building.

Margaret Thatcher and Jesse Helms were cut from the same cloth. The Protestantism of their youth, forged in the small towns of Middle England and Western North Carolina, taught them that a nation is built on the home and family, not with “programs and bureaucrats.” Judeo-Christian morality informed their politics.

Churchill and Jefferson were their lodestars. For them, “evil” was not an impolitic term to sheepishly shy away from, but
a threat to be confronted and destroyed.

In the mid-1970s, when Thatcher first visited the United States as leader of the opposition — with the avowed purpose of reaching out to conservative Americans — the socialist Prime Minister James Callaghan denied her the use of the British Embassy.

Enter Jesse Helms from stage right. Helms, then out of favor with the Republican establishment for having endorsed the insurgent candidacy of Ronald Reagan in the 1976 Republican presidential primary, opened his Senate offices for his spiritual soul mate. That gesture led to a series of fateful meetings with Reagan, Milton Friedman, Billy Graham, Barry Goldwater and William F. Buckley, and the forging of a blueprint that eventually swept away the sclerotic social democratic leadership in London and Washington.

Thatcher saved Great Britain, much to the chagrin of the “old boys” within her own party, and in so doing set an example that the stronger partner, personified by Reagan, used to restore American pride and to vanquish the Soviet tyranny. In all of her trials, she never forgot the role played by her friend Jesse Helms. When the Helms Center was dedicated several years ago, Thatcher, not in robust health, made the journey to Monroe, N.C. In opening the center, she noted, “Senator Helms’ record as a freedom fighter is unmatched … and his convictions were triumphantly validated in circumstances so embarrassing for his critics that they have been rewriting them ever since.” Senator No always said yes to liberty.

It was not always easy for Margaret Thatcher and Jesse Helms to stand athwart the tides of the welfare state and global totalitarianism and yell “Stop.” They steadfastly refused to compromise their principles and carried on fights against new and equally lethal enemies long after the fall of the Berlin Wall. They were mutually despised by the secular elites, and that hatred spewed forth upon their deaths though each had been out of the spotlight for many years.

They would have appreciated the sentiment and probably revealed in it. Sen. Helms used to say, “They don’t seem to understand … I don’t care what The New York Times says about me.”

No one was ever neutral about Thatcher or Helms, and that in and of itself is a testament to what each believed politics should be — not a tussle of banalities but a battleground for passions and ideas. They understood freedom better than any of their detractors, and what is often forgotten — they never lost an election.

Robert Wilkie is a corporate executive in Washington, D.C. He served as counsel to Sen. Jesse Helms from 1988 to 1995 and subsequently as senior director of the National Security Council from 2003 to 2005 and assistant secretary of defense from 2005 to 2009. He is a graduate of Reid Ross High School in Fayetteville.

This article originally ran in The Fayetteville Observer, page 15A, on Sunday, April 15, 2013.
Public Policy, Private Incentives and Family Breakdown

Jesse Helms Center Free Enterprise Fellow Dr. Peter Frank will release a new study this summer which will document the economic impact of the family breakdown on our society. While researchers from multiple disciplines have investigated the impact of the family breakdown, little research has been done to effectively explore the economic consequences of this breakdown and government's role in it.

Dr. Frank's initial findings are thought provoking and based around the fundamental idea that marriage is not just an idea of rights which satisfy citizens, but instead a cornerstone of Western civilization. Dr. Frank contends that the institution of marriage and the family unit is a central component of human relationships and has vast importance beyond a simple political agenda. Once viewed in this framework, sociologists and economists are better able to understand the vital role that the traditional family network can play in the economy. For example, several noted researchers have previously concluded that higher divorce rates precede an increase in poverty rates.

Dr. Frank's forthcoming report will focus on a comprehensive review of the research on how public policy has contributed to the breakdown of the family in the past half century. Additionally, it will measure the economic impact of family breakdown using a model for the North Carolina economy that can be replicated in other states. Once completed, the research study will be made available online and distributed across the country. To reserve an advance copy of this study, please contact Lindsay Hollandsworth at (704) 233-1776, ext 8.
FELC is Changing Lives

RIMA PATEL SHARES HER STORY

My name is Rima Patel (Pearland, TX), and I attended the FELC camp in the summer of 2012. Before I went to the camp, I had very little understanding of the free enterprise system, the economy, [and] exactly how businesses worked. Going to the camp not only aroused an interest in me to learn more about the business sector in the economy but helped me make vital connections in both my economics and government class this year.

Additionally, I appreciated how the camp brought abstract concepts to life in a fun and engaging manner.

Leadership has always been a passion of mine, and at the camp I was able to re-enforce this passion. The camp presented me with a multitude of leadership challenges from time management, to delegation, to team work, to negotiation, and most importantly listening. At the camp I was able to build memorable friendships with students from all over.

I commend the camp in keeping alive respected Mr. Jesse Helms' vision and empowering the youth of today. I have been truly inspired by his courage and faith to stand up for what he believed in. His commitment to children and the community is something that I believe everyone should make an example of.

More importantly, I thank you FELC staff for doing all in your power to keep his principles alive today. The FELC commitment to the community is something that I have truly admired, and I would like to in the future construct myself to be like you all.

The days spent at camp have truly ignited a fire in me to do something for the world and speak up for the things I believe in. It also has taught me how much I value being an American citizen which is why I should do all in my power to preserve the power invested in me by the founding fathers.

Pictured above: Rima Patel of Pearland, Texas, a 2012 Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge graduate.

Pictured to the left: Rishabh Jain (left) and Rima Patel (right) sell concessions for their company during the Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge at Northwood University.
Making Charitable Gift Annuities Work for You

One of the many ways Helms Center friends support the work of the Helms Center is through charitable gift annuities. Through an annuity gift, the donor makes a lump sum donation, and in turn receives guaranteed payments for life. The added benefit is the immediate valuable tax deduction, while at the same time supporting our work with young people. The Helms Center partners with the National Christian Foundation to ensure that all gifts are properly insured and managed.

To learn more about this and the many ways you can help the Helms Center through bequests and other planned gifts, please call Brian Rogers at (704) 233-1776, ext. 4. Thank you for your continued faith in our work.

Why do we need your assistance for the Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge? Each student is asked to pay a minimal registration fee of $100. The remainder of the cost is covered by a scholarship each student receives, made possible by donors like you! This allows students from all locations and backgrounds to take part in life-changing free enterprise training.
In January, Carolina Journal reviewed the Helms Center’s newest publication “Thirty for Thirty,” a collection of Senator Helms’ thirty most memorable speeches. Below is a portion of that review.

“There are 2 million people alive in Africa today because Jesse Helms did the right thing,” said Bono. In Thirty for Thirty, Helms explains why he supported U.S. action against the spread of HIV, and a lot more.

The speeches read well, and one may be certain that Helms, a former news editor for the Raleigh Times, is the author. But Thirty for Thirty is more than Jesse Helms’ greatest hits. Indeed, it covers ground worthy of review by right and left alike. The New York Times disliked Helms because he opposed communist dictators such as Fidel Castro, “an evil, cruel, brutal, murderous tyrannical thug.” Helms did not neglect North Korea, “where millions starve and die to satisfy the bizarre whimsy of a psychotic dictator.”

When Nobel laureate and Gulag Archipelago author Alexander Solzhenitsyn visited the United States, his first stop was the residence of Sen. Helms. In 1983, en route to South Korea, Helms befriended some children about to board Korean Airlines flight 007.

The Soviet Union shot down the airliner, killing 269 people, including the children Helms befriended, and U.S. Rep. Lawrence McDonald of Georgia. Helms easily could have been on that doomed flight, and his brief speech at the memorial service is the most moving in this collection.

In 1973 Helms said Americans “do not want the large, cumbersome, meddlesome, expensive, restrictive, coercive, energy-sapping government they have today. But I also believe that momentum now favors government growth. And if this momentum is not halted, people will get ever more tolerant of government growth.”

The last two national elections would seem to confirm Helms’ prophecy. Here, Helms’ speeches and experience can provide some guidance. During the Carter era of economic decline at home and retreat abroad, Helms stuck to his conservative principles and supported Ronald Reagan who, against considerable odds, boosted economic growth and ended the Cold War.

In the Obama era, Leviathan has gained considerable heft, and the nation remains in a recession. Imperialist Islam has replaced Stalinist expansion, but retreat is the rule. If all that is to change, it won’t be because those on the side of “that right-winger from North Carolina” see their principles and convictions as irrelevant.

Eleven years after his retirement and five since his passing, Helms remains a silent fixture on the national political scene. Many of our nation’s great conservative leaders still applaud his tough stance on the issues, and of course, his detractors still cite his commitment to conservative principles as a passé philosophy. Thirty for Thirty: Thirty landmark addresses given by Senator Jesse Helms during his thirty-year legislative career is the most recent publication by the Jesse Helms Center and offers a rare glimpse into the philosophy and mind of the late Senator. Set chronologically, the book sets the record straight on important issues. To order your copy, please contact Carolyn Phifer at (704) 233-1776, ext 2.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS. SO MANY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE.

FELC at Wingate University
June 16-20 in Wingate, NC

FELC at Northwood University
June 23-27 in Cedar Hill, TX

FELC at Palm Beach Atlantic University
July 7-11 in West Palm Beach, FL

FELC at Hillsdale College
July 14-18 in Hillsdale, MI

FELC at Campbell University
July 21-25 in Buies Creek, NC

Helms Foreign Policy School
Fall in Washington, DC
College students will learn the basics of a conservative foreign policy from top Washington leaders and policy makers.

25th Anniversary Celebration
Fall in Raleigh, NC
During 2013, the Helms Center will celebrate its 25th anniversary with multiple events including a planned dinner in Raleigh.