

**WHAT'S BEING SAID -
ABOUT JOE AND THE WAGGONNER CENTER**

"I have no doubt that the Country would be vastly improved if we could return to the policy-orientation, the politics, and the style of Joe D. Waggonner, Jr."

– J. Bennett Johnston, (D)
U. S. Senate, 1972-1997

"Joe's presence in Congress helped produce the kind of government that we could all be proud of. If this Center can help produce another Joe Waggonner, it will have served our nation very well."

– John Breaux, (D)
U. S. Senate, 1987-2005

"Joe Waggonner was a true gentleman, loyal friend, and honest public servant. Joe wisely recognized that he had a natural ability to encourage compromise and consensus among members of his party and those on the other side of the aisle. And he did so regularly because it was in the best interest of our great nation. Joe Waggonner was a supreme vote counter and had a grasp of the issues both foreign and domestic unlike any other man I have ever known. He was a confidant and advisor to many Presidents and national political leaders, regardless of party affiliation. I am fortunate to have witnessed this great master of the political process at work, up close and personal, and even more fortunate to have been mentored by this extraordinary man. If the Joe D. Waggonner Center for Bipartisan Politics and Public Policy is able to teach as Joe lived and served, the people's confidence in government and politicians will be truly restored. I salute Louisiana Tech University for the establishment of this great center in the name of this grand American."

– Tom Loeffler, (R)
Special Assistant to President Gerald Ford for Legislative Affairs and U. S. House of Representatives from Texas, 1979-1987

"...Joe was one of the most respected southern conservative Democrats. From that position he was able to work to form compromise and consensus, the art of politics. His penchant for bipartisan collaboration earned him respect on both sides of the aisle."

– Jerry Huckaby, (D)
U. S. House of Representatives, 1976-1992

BIO:

Joseph David Waggonner, Jr. (September 7, 1918 – October 7, 2007), better known as Joe D. Waggonner, was a Democratic U.S. Representative from Bossier Parish who served nine terms in Congress and represented the 4th Congressional District of Northwest Louisiana from December 1961 until January 1979.

Waggonner graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 1941 where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. In 1977, he was named a charter recipient of the Tower Medallion for distinguished Louisiana Tech alumni. He was also Alumnus of the Year in 1992. There are two Joe D. Waggonner Professorships at Louisiana Tech – one in Political Science and the other in Engineering.

Waggonner was first elected to public office in 1954 to a seat on the Bossier Parish School Board, of which he was president from 1956 to 1957. In 1960, he was elected to the Louisiana State Board of Education from the Northwest Louisiana district. In 1961, he was chosen as president of both the Louisiana School Boards Association and the United Schools Committee of Louisiana.

Many will remember Waggonner because of his relationships with Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. Over the years, they collaborated on legislation in the United States House of Representatives. Ford was Republican Majority Leader in the House, and Waggonner led Democratic moderate and conservative forces. Ford and Waggonner often forged bipartisan alliances on legislation.

When Richard Nixon was elected President, it was Ford who told Nixon to establish a strong relationship with Waggonner if he wanted to get his ideas and programs approved by Congress.

During the latter part of his congressional career, Waggonner used his influence to secure funding for Interstate 49 and the Inner and Outer Loop, as well as funding for the Red River Waterway. Furthermore, he was instrumental in persuading General Motors to build a plant in Shreveport.

Waggonner supported Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City and worked to keep the base open while other bases around the country were targeted for closure. In 1998, Waggonner was inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield, Louisiana.

Joe D. Waggonner passed away on October 7, 2007 in Shreveport, Louisiana.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Louisiana Tech, a selective-admissions university divided into five colleges and the Graduate School, is located in the rolling, forested hills of North Central Louisiana. The city of Ruston, which has relished its role as the university's hometown since 1894, provides excellent support to more than 10,000 Louisiana Tech students.

VISIT US:

We welcome the opportunity to tailor your visit to your interests. Of course, you're welcome to visit any time of year, but the best time is when classes are in session. You can arrange a campus visit by contacting Admissions at 1-800-LATECH-1, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. You can also schedule a visit online at www.latech.edu.

"It seems all too often that the important work of public service takes a back seat to 'partisan gains.' Joe would work against this to bring the sides together to solve the problem. A Center sharing his legacy to that end would serve our democracy better than any improvement I could think of to our political system."

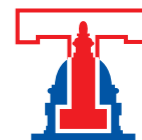
– Henson Moore, (R)
U.S. House of Representatives, 1975-1987



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY
www.latechalumni.org

Louisiana Tech University, a member of the University of Louisiana System, is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

JOE D. WAGGONNER CENTER
FOR BIPARTISAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY



JOE D. WAGGONNER CENTER
FOR BIPARTISAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY
AT LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY





A LEGACY OF BIPARTISANSHIP...

Joe D. Waggonner, Jr. (1918-2007), former Member of Congress representing Northwest Louisiana, was a 1941 Louisiana Polytechnic Institute (Louisiana Tech University) graduate.

Currently, the Prescott Memorial Library holds the Waggonner Papers and there are two Joe D. Waggonner Professorships at Louisiana Tech.

Throughout his political career, Waggonner was a bridge builder, a master at bringing leaders from different walks of life and political parties together to solve pressing local, state, and national issues. To honor him and the spirit of bipartisanship that was his trademark, Louisiana Tech University is creating the Joe D. Waggonner Center for Bipartisan Politics and Public Policy.

The Center's mission will be to foster citizenship, bipartisan understanding, effective public policy, and civic leadership among students and to engage the

public at large. The Center will focus on restoring the principles and values of bipartisanship, the hallmark of Waggonner's career, while developing thoughtful, innovative solutions to local, state, and national issues.

The Center will host a number of public events and student engagement activities, some of which are available for naming rights by a major donor, including:

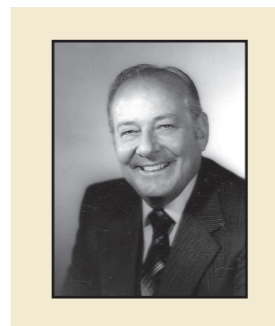
- **A Distinguished Speaker Series** in conjunction with a new elective course in Political Science on Public Policy.
- **A Biennial Conference and Workshops on Bipartisan Politics** with keynote speakers, symposia, published proceedings, and a tie-in to AASCU's American Democracy Project for Civic Engagement.

• The Center will provide **Washington, D. C. Political Science Student Internships** to outstanding political science students.

• **A Congressional Meeting Room** will be established to display memorabilia from the Joe D. Waggonner, Jr. Archive Collection permanently. The room will have secure display cases for items commemorating the contributions to regional and national politics by successful alumni of Louisiana Tech.

• **The Joe D. Waggonner Jr. Endowed Chair in Political Science** through the Board of Regents Support Fund Endowed Chair Program for Louisiana Tech University will be created. This endowed chair would be funded at a ratio of 60:40 with \$600,000 raised by external funds and \$400,000 in matching funds from the Louisiana Board of Regents. As an eminent scholar, the holder of the Endowed Chair will be expected to continue a record of scholarly endeavors, provide leadership, enhance the reputation of the University, demonstrate exceptional teaching, attract high-quality students, and contribute to the State's economic development.

• **A website** will be created for the Waggonner Center. **The Waggonner Papers** will be digitized and made available over the internet, and an **Oral History Project** will be undertaken to chronicle the impact Waggonner's career had on our region, state, and nation.



Endowment Goal - \$2,500,000

Levels of Giving

- Eagle = \$250,000+
- Gold Star Circle = \$100,000 - \$249,999
- Star Circle = \$50,000 - \$99,999
- Red = \$5,000 - \$49,999
- White = \$1,000 - \$4,999
- Blue = \$250 - \$999
- Friends of Waggonner Center = \$249 or less

Tax-deductible donations should be sent to

Louisiana Tech University Foundation
P.O. Box 1190
Ruston, LA 71273
Phone: 318.255.7950 or
800.738.7950

Gifts should be designated for
The Waggonner Center