

Fellow board members, staff await Doris Williams' return

"She has been notably conspicuous in her absence," Robert Wilford, executive director, said when asked to elaborate on one of his favorite board members. "I find myself at a loss when it comes time to adjourn a board meeting and she isn't here to make the motion."

Wilford was speaking of Ms. Doris Williams of Newport. Rarely absent from a meeting of the CRDC Board of Directors, Ms. Williams is the uncontested source for motions of adjournment and her recent absences have put a noticeable damper on the meeting closings.

"We may tease Doris about always wanting to make the motion to adjourn, but in all seriousness, she is a valuable and respected member of our organization," he continued. "We have missed her since her rather lengthy illness prohibited her from joining us. We want her to recover quickly and get back to the meetings."

The Jackson County native has been a member of the CRDC board for four years and has established herself as a tenacious supporter of the less fortunate, not only in Jackson County, but throughout the CRDC service area.

She is currently a member of the board's personnel committee.

Reared in Jackson County, Doris returned to the Newport area after attending Arkansas State University. She retired after working 33 years for the Norandal Corporation in Newport.

She is the mother of two and has four grandchildren she enjoys spending time with whenever possible. She also enjoys working with her church group and reading when she finds the time.

"Doris is one of those rare people who possesses a delightful sense of humor and can brighten up any meeting," Wilford says. "But she can also be counted on to bring some very serious and thought provoking ideas

to the table. Simply put, she is multifaceted and is a welcome and valuable board member."

He concluded that "I can't wait" for her to recover from her illness and return to the board meetings.



Doris Williams

Let us honor and respect them *As we await their return*

Within this agency are many anxiously awaiting the return of their sons and husbands, daughters and mothers from the war torn lands of Iraq and other Middle East countries. These faraway lands are, for better or worse, the temporary homes for U.S. troops engaged in military actions aimed at providing a measure of freedom for the citizens of those countries.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to these troops and to their families. Each day, U.S. troops give the final sacrifice as they stand fast against bands of murderous thugs involved in terrorist acts that take the lives of innocent citizens as well as combatants.

Whether or not U.S. troops should be on those foreign soils will be left to the

politicians to debate. Our focus will remain on those who are putting themselves in harms way as servants of their country, the greatest democracy on the face of the earth. That they are willing to dedicate themselves to this task is enough to warrant our respect and support.

I Am An American is the name and first line of a patriotic song often performed by the U.S. Air Force band and choral group. It is one of those pieces sure to bring tears to the eyes of any grateful American, and especially those who are serving or have served in any of our nation's military branches.

And those of us who are thinking of our brothers and sisters in arms today prefer to think only in that respect.

They are there. They deserve to be honored for their courage, discipline and commitment. And the loved ones that stayed behind to await the return of their men and women in arms are deserving of some small measure of that respect as well. Sadly, many of these families will seek out the aid of CRDC and other agencies across this land when problems and needs arise. The military has never had the funds needed to provide adequate pay for its troops. It may never. We will do what we can ... and regret we can't do more.

In the meantime, until they can come home, we salute those who serve us and ask that the Great Power be ever watchful over those who protect and those who are being protected.