

Meeting Iraqi Women and the Mayor of Vienna, Austria; Halloween Parade

JS: We got a phone call from a woman at the State Department one day. She had a group of Iraqi women for conflict resolution, a week of meetings and everything. She said, 'I'm looking for a woman mayor to show to them. Can they come and meet you?' I said, 'Oh, absolutely.' We had probably three other women on Council at that time. We got together with them. We had dinner in Vienna, they came to one of our meetings. It was just a wonderful—that happened twice. It was just wonderful because they were—I said to them, 'It's up to you guys, you women, to really make the difference in Iraq.' That was a really neat experience that would not happen if we did not live right here in Washington. So there's been some fun things like that. One time the Austrian Embassy called and invited me to dinner. They were having as a guest the mayor of Vienna, Austria. They thought 'oh that would be so cool to have...' Well, he could have cared less. He was like, 'Pssh.' But I had a wonderful time. It was just a gorgeous house. She was a woman, the ambassador. Beautiful house. It was just really a neat experience. But those kind of things happen once in a while. You take advantage of them, you really do.

But the grandchildren absolutely loved when I became mayor because they would ride with me on the float, on the Council float, and wave to everybody. They thought they were so special. And they probably—people would wave more at them because they would always be in costume. Politicians were always kind of more boring at that time.

VH: So do you still ride on the float?

JS: Oh yeah.

CG: Are there any other special things that you get to do because of your government status?

JS: I try not—I don't really take advantage. I guess the Halloween parade—it's interesting. My granddaughter's a sophomore at Madison, and one of her friends is one the yearbook staff. There's a whole page on the yearbook of a picture of her and I, her and me. Then there's this thing about 'Royalty in Vienna'. We're both looking at it like 'Really?!' What she gets to do because she's related to me. I guess riding in the Halloween parade...we're looking at each other like 'really? All those things...'