

RECOGNIZING THE 148TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNETEENTH AND THE 20TH CELEBRATION OF THE JUNETEENTH FREEDOM & HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 148th anniversary of the observance of Juneteenth in the United States. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln in September 1862, it was not until June 19, 1865, that Union Soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger granted freedom to the last slaves in Galveston, Texas. This year also marks the 20th annual Juneteenth Freedom and Heritage Festival in Memphis. To commemorate this day in our history and the contributions of many African-Americans to our nation, this year the festival has chosen the theme, "Honoring African-American Medical Doctors."

Over the course of history, there have been many obstacles in the path to success for African-Americans in many fields, and the medical field is no exception. In fact, the nation's first African-American doctor, Dr. James McCune Smith was barred from attending medical school in New York City, where he lived, so he attended medical school in Scotland and obtained his degree in 1837. He then returned to New York, set up a medical practice in lower Manhattan, and became the resident physician at an orphanage. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Smith served as a schoolteacher, a prolific writer and a strong abolitionist. The bravery of Dr. Smith paved the way for more African-American doctors to climb the ranks to prominence.

Because Memphis is a medical center, the city has seen its own share of African-American doctors who have made a difference in the lives of their patients and left their respective marks on the medical community. Dr. Edward Reed was the first black general surgeon to set up practice in Memphis and to integrate the surgical staffs of Memphis hospitals during the 1960s. Dr. Lawrence Seymour was a pioneer in the fight against prostate cancer, developing several new treatments for the disease, including one that shrinks the prostate gland before surgery. Dr. Linkwood Williams moved to Memphis, after his tenure training many of the 450 pilots who served in the 332nd Fighter Group at Tuskegee University, and began an OB-GYN practice, becoming the first African-American OB-GYN in the city. Dr. Vasco Smith, a civil rights leader and the first African-American elected to the Shelby County Commission, also served the medical community as a well-respected dentist and an instrumental founder of the Regional Medical Center at Memphis. Dr. Ethelyn Williams-Neal worked to become one of the first black pediatricians in Memphis, and she continues to serve as a prominent pediatrician in the Memphis community.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the spirit of these great medical professionals that I ask my colleagues to join me in observing our nation's 148th anniversary of Juneteenth and the celebrations in Memphis. This is a time to reflect upon the

end of slavery in America and to recognize the many contributions of African-American citizens. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, the Emancipation Proclamation "came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Friday afternoon, June 14th, due to attending a family funeral out of town. The House considered amendments to H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted: "aye" on rollcall No. 230 (Holt amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 231 (McCollum amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 232 (Nolan amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 233 (Larsen amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 234 (Gibson amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 235 (Coffman amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 237 (Smith amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 238 (Polis amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 239 (Polis amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 240 (Van Hollen amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 241 (Blumenauer amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 242 (DeLauro amendment); "aye" on rollcall No. 243 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 1960 with Instructions); "no" on rollcall No. 229 (Turner amendment); "no" on rollcall No. 236 (Walorski amendment); and "no" on rollcall No. 244 (final passage of H.R. 1960).

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 24

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine curbing drug abuse in Medicare.

SD-342

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Howard A. Shelanski, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, and Daniel M. Tangherlini, of the District of Columbia, to be Administrator of General Services.

S-216

JUNE 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine private student loans, focusing on regulatory perspectives.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the challenges and opportunities for improving forest management on Federal lands.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold an oversight hearing to examine recovery audit contractors, focusing on program integrity.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia

To hold hearings to examine measuring the impact of preparedness grants since 9/11.

SD-342

12 noon

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

SD-124

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 718, to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, S. 559, to establish a fund to make payments to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:08-CV-00487 (EGS) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, S. Res. 144, concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for international efforts supporting long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights, S. Res. 167, reaffirming the strong support of the United States for the peaceful resolution of territorial, sovereignty, and jurisdictional disputes in the Asia-Pacific maritime domains, S. Res. 165, calling for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko in light of the recent European Court of Human Rights ruling, S. Res. 166, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and commending its successor, the African Union, and any pending nominations.

S-116