

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING THE END OF SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 56), celebrating the end of slavery in the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 56

Whereas news of the end of slavery came late to frontier areas of the country, especially in the American Southwest;

Whereas the African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest thereafter celebrated Juneteenth as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas their descendants handed down that tradition from generation to generation as an inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas Juneteenth celebrations have thus been held for 130 years to honor the memory of all those who endured slavery and especially those who moved from slavery to freedom; and

Whereas their example of faith and strength of character remains a lesson for all Americans today, regardless of background or region or race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of our country's history and heritage;

(2) the celebration of the end of slavery provides an opportunity for all Americans to learn more about our common past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped our Nation; and

(3) a copy of this joint resolution be transmitted to the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage as an expression of appreciation for its role in promoting the observance of the end of slavery.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS] and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CUMMINGS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS].

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, "Juneteenth" has long been recognized as the date to celebrate the end of slavery in the United States. I congratulate my friend and the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS], for introducing this resolution to underscore the importance of that development for our Nation.

Juneteenth is the traditional celebration of the day on which the last slaves in America were freed. Although slavery was officially abolished in 1863, it took over two years for news of freedom to spread to all slaves. On June 19, 1865, U.S. General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and announced that the State's 200,000 slaves were free. To make the date unforgettable, the former slaves coined the nickname "Juneteenth," mixing the word "June" and "nineteenth."

This holiday originated in the Southwest, but today it is celebrated

throughout the Nation. The celebration of Juneteenth provides an opportunity for all Americans to learn more about our common past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] for his leadership in guiding this bill to the House floor. I also thank the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON], chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN], the ranking member, for their support of this measure.

For more than 100 years, African-Americans all over this country have been celebrating a very special day, Juneteenth. Juneteenth, on June 19, commemorates a joyous day in 1865 when many of the slaves in the State of Texas first learned that they had been freed. Juneteenth is sometimes known as the African-American 4th of July.

President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863. However, as most Americans know, the Emancipation Proclamation freed only those slaves in the States fighting against the Union in the Civil War. However, it was not until General Gordon Granger of the Union army arrived in Texas in 1865 that many of the slaves were informed that they had already been emancipated for over two years.

As the news spread, African-Americans celebrated. Festive foods were prepared. Music was played. People danced and sang. Mr. Speaker, most importantly, they prayed.

Then began the long journey down the road towards equality and justice, a journey we still find ourselves traveling on more than a century later. That is why African-Americans and all people of goodwill and humanity pause to celebrate this special day in history.

□ 1600

My good friend, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. JESSE L. JACKSON, has defined these kinds of events as faith events. More than a celebration, Mr. Speaker, the commemoration of Juneteenth is a faith event. It is a time to thank our Creator for the renewal of our people's strength, their tenacity, their determination, and the amazing grace which has sustained their souls and their faith through this great hardship.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS].

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind words, and for the two gentlemen that have just articulated the thoughts on Juneteenth, I thank them both for their kind words and for their support of this legislation.

I also want to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. JOHN MICA, whose leadership was instrumental in bringing this bill to the floor today during Juneteenth week. I sincerely appreciate his hard work in making that happen.

Mr. Speaker, as has been described here on the floor today, Juneteenth is the traditional celebration of the day on which the last slaves in America were freed. In September of 1862, in my opinion our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, issued the Emancipation Proclamation which officially freed the slaves as of January 1, 1863, a full 87 years after the War of Independence began, with the support of thousands of black American patriots.

But the official act and the actual liberation were separated by months of continuing war, and long distances and news of freedom was slow to travel during those remaining years of the Civil War. It was not until June 19, 1865 that word finally reached the people in one of the farthest corners of the South, Galveston, TX, when Gen. Gordon Granger marched into the city and announced that the State's 200,000 slaves were free. That day has since been coined Juneteenth Independence Day and has been celebrated as such by tens of thousands of Americans and families for over 130 years.

Today this congressional resolution, House Joint Resolution 56, seeks to honor the memory of all those who endured slavery. It seeks to remind us of their faith, their strength of character, and their long struggle for freedom and for equal rights. It seeks to remind us that America needed a second Independence Day to complete the work that was begun by our Founding Fathers on the Fourth of July, 1776.

I hope all Americans will take a moment to recognize this Juneteenth Independence Day by remembering those who suffered, those who struggled, and those who finally triumphed over ignorance and hate to make a better world for their children and for their grandchildren. This is an opportunity to remember that we, too, are in the process every day of our lives of leaving a legacy to our own children and grandchildren.

This Juneteenth perhaps is a time to consider whether our legacy will be as noble as those before us. Three months before General Granger rode into Galveston and 1 month before he was assassinated, President Lincoln gave a second inaugural address where he challenged his countrymen to strive on to finish the work we are in, "with malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace."

A just and lasting peace. That challenge reaches out across the generations. It is the reason we remember and

honor the great men and women who fought for the legacy of freedom that we honor on Juneteenth.

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS].

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] for his statements. Juneteenth is a day to celebrate and pay homage to the endurance of African-American slaves and their determination to be free. It commemorates the tenacity and courage they exhibited to obtain that freedom. It is a tribute to those black Americans who fought so long and worked so hard for the dream of equality.

Although Juneteenth is founded upon a painful past, it is now a day of celebration, fellowship, unity, and new beginnings: a faith event. When African-Americans were brought from Africa to this country as slaves, it was not only their bodies that were shackled. Their potential was also imprisoned. But no amount of enslavement, torture, humiliation, or murder was able to bound the souls, ambitions, or dreams of this dynamic and resilient people.

No other class of citizens, with the exception of possibly the American Indian, has had their language, their culture, and their religion literally stripped from their identity, and still they survived. Indeed, we thrive. African-Americans are now doctors, lawyers, educators, Supreme Court justices, and 101 people once denied the right to even sit in the balconies of this Chamber have served as Members of the U.S. Congress. We have come far, Mr. Chairman, but we still have a long way to go.

Juneteenth symbolizes the formal beginning of our march toward self-determination and empowerment. At times progress along this march has been slow, almost imperceptible. Though technically free by law, there are new struggles which today seek to enslave and impede our people from fully realizing the bounty of the American dream. Crime, drug abuse, poverty, poor health, and substandard education continue to shackle the full development of African-American potential.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN].

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Joint Resolution 56, the resolution celebrating the end of slavery in the United States. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free. Honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve, we shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth."

With these words in December 1862, President Abraham Lincoln clearly defined his vision for a unified free Amer-

ica. Although it took the Civil War and three constitutional amendments to secure equal status for all U.S. citizens, Lincoln's moral leadership saved the last best hope of Earth from division and destruction.

The end of slavery is one of the most significant events in U.S. history. That is why earlier this week I cosponsored, with Mr. HALL, an apology, to ask forgiveness, because I believe before this Nation can truly be healed, forgiveness must be sought and reconciliation must occur. I applaud the authors of this amendment and ask for the passage of House Joint Resolution 56.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE], a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Science and cosponsor of this legislation.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me, and I would express appreciation to the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] for his leadership and his desire to bring this to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth or June 19, 1865 is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. Although rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation did not come until Gen. Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, TX and issued order No. 3 on June 19 which freed the estimated 200,000 slaves in the State of Texas. This is particularly special to Texans today, and this week many celebrations are going on in Texas. Texans will commemorate Juneteenth on June 19, as a State holiday created by the work of State Representative Al Edwards. Much study has been given to this historic event by Rev. C. Anderson Davis, who leads many activities regarding Juneteenth in Texas.

Many may stop and ask the question, whether the word is in fact celebration or whether it is commemoration. I believe that any day someone rises and achieves freedom is a day to celebrate. Even though General Granger's announcement came almost 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

President Lincoln issued the proclamation on September 22, 1862 as a bid to reunite this Nation, after a block of Southern States left the Union. It included a provision to free all slaves in those States if they did not return to the Union. These States did not return to the Union, however this proclamation did not apply to those slave-holding States that did not rebel against the Union. This fact left about 800,000 slaves unaffected by the provisions of the proclamation.

The Civil War and the 13th amendment to the Constitution formally outlawed slavery in the United States.

When Texas heard the news, those who were slaves did dance, they did sing, and they prayed. As I said, for many years individuals thought we should not say that, we should not acknowledge that there was a celebration, but I can surely say that freedom should be praised and it should be applauded.

This day as we celebrate the bringing of this particular legislation, House Joint Resolution 56, let me applaud President Bill Clinton for his initiative, that there should be a racial healing. Let me also say that I support the legislation that will seek an apology for slavery in this country.

If we are serious, a debate should be real. If we are serious, an apology should be given and accepted. If we are serious, we should go forth, heal the racial divide and build our communities economically, socially, and with justice for all of America by presenting to those of ethnic and minority background a true opportunity, viewing them as equal citizens under the law in the United States of America. I support legislation to acknowledge the end of slavery in America.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 56, which is celebrating the end of slavery in the United States.

I would like to thank my colleague from the State of Oklahoma, for his leadership in bringing this legislation to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth or June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. Although rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation did not come until General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, TX and issued general order No. 3, on June 19, which freed the States estimated 200,000 slaves. General Granger's announcement came almost 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Although President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, as a bid to reunite the Nation after the block of Southern States had seceded from the Union it included a provision to free all slaves in those States if they did not return to the Union. These States did not return to the Union, and this proclamation did not apply to those slave-holding States that did not rebel against the Union. These facts left about 800,000 slaves unaffected by the provisions of the proclamation.

The Civil War and the 13th amendment to the Constitution formally outlawed slavery in the United States.

When slaves in Texas heard the news, they sang, danced, and prayed. There was much rejoicing and jubilation that their life long prayers had finally been answered. Many of the slaves left their masters immediately, upon being freed, in search of family members, economic opportunities or simply because they could. They left with nothing but the clothes on their backs and hope in their hearts.

Freedom; the right to name one's self, the right to have a marriage legally recognized, the right to assemble, the right to openly worship as one saw fit, and the right to learn how to read and write without fear.

There were still many difficult journeys for former slaves to overcome. The abject poverty

and the racism that maintained it, prohibited any hope for assimilation into American society. In Texas, there were condemnations of those who would sell land to blacks. The Texas Homestead Act, passed during Reconstruction, the period following the Civil War, granted up to 160 acres of free land to white persons only. The Texas legislature in 1866 along with many legislatures across the Nation began to pass a new set of black codes which were designed to limit or reverse the gains ex-slaves had been granted.

Ex-slaves entered freedom penniless and homeless, with only the clothes on their backs. In the words of Frederick Douglas, "free without roofs to cover them, or bread to eat, or land to cultivate, and as a consequence died in such numbers as to awaken the hope of their enemies that they would soon disappear."

Sharecropping emerged from this misery in Texas and all over the Deep South which kept blacks from starving, but had little to distinguish it from the slave life of blacks. By 1877, the end of Reconstruction, the North had abandoned black America to the will of Southern whites, who through violence, racial discrimination, and Jim Crow laws succeeded in disenfranchising them, resulting in more than a 100 years of oppression until the rise of the civil rights movement.

Juneteenth during the decades following the end of slavery became for African-Americans a special day to celebrate the fruits of freedom which were and should have been fully theirs at the end of slavery.

Over the few short decades from the civil rights movement Juneteenth has grown in prominence and recognition. It is a day that all Americans can and do celebrate as a reminder of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery. It honors those African-Americans who survived the inhumane institution of bondage, as well as a demonstration of pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance they left us.

Juneteenth should also serve as a day to recognize those who supported the abolitionist movement and the underground railroad which helped to pave our way to a nation not in conflict with its founding principles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join in support of House Joint Resolution 56.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Kentucky [Mrs. NORTHUP].

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues and friends, and in particular the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS], in commemorating this historic event. The Juneteenth celebration symbolizes the end of a practice which divided this country for hundreds of years. To this day, that practice continues to cause fear, distress, and anger, a practice that denied an entire race of people its rights, guaranteed to all Americans by our Constitution, a practice that stripped them of opportunity and oftentimes hope.

But on this day, when we remember the close of a terrible chapter in our Nation's history, I believe we must look ahead rather than behind. We must look ahead to a Nation devoid of racial tension and then work toward that goal. Americans of all races must

take it upon themselves to reach across that gulf of racial divisions to build friendships, relationships, and understanding so our children will know a world without prejudice.

In a time and a country where blacks and whites do not even eat together, pray together, or play together, the Juneteenth celebration should serve as a reminder that there is still work to be done, and should encourage us to pursue the promise of an America which is indeed free for all.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago my colleague, the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlewoman from California, [Ms. WATERS] came to Baltimore to deliver a most dynamic commencement address at Morgan State University, which is located in my district.

During that address she said that African-Americans are the only class of citizens of this great Nation which has had to have landmark legislation and groundbreaking court decisions handed down throughout our Nation's history to force America to accept us as full citizens, with all the rights and privileges of that distinction.

Mr. Speaker, on that great day, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WATERS] was right on point. In 1791, the fifth amendment was ratified, guaranteeing all persons due process under the law. In 1865, this country adopted the 13th amendment, officially doing away with slavery. In the course of one century the Congress of the United States has passed four civil rights acts giving all U.S. citizens the same rights enjoyed by whites, and finally, in 1974, the Congress enacted the Housing and Community Development Act.

Almost two centuries have passed since this country began to make efforts to reconcile this inhuman past with this bright and hopeful future. But Mr. Speaker, I must reiterate that a full century after the Emancipation Proclamation, three decades since the Voting Rights Act, two generations since the landmark court decision of Brown versus the Board of Education, Americans, both black and white, still find themselves standing dumbfounded at the crossroads in race relations.

Mr. Speaker, we can and we must do better. I want to take this opportunity to commend President Clinton for his encouraging our Nation to live up to its potential as we continue taking steps in America's long journey toward racial healing.

In the President's address at the University of California, San Diego, last weekend, he had the courage to address the sensitive and critical issue of race relations. But we cannot allow a dialog on race to commence without fully addressing serious economic, social, and environmental systems that continue to fan the flames of misunderstanding.

Until we address the root causes of joblessness and unemployment, health, poverty, and hunger, affordable hous-

ing and educational disparity, a discussion of race healing is premature.

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The President has appointed a blue ribbon panel to advise him on the issue of race. But, Mr. Speaker, I agree with retired Maryland juvenile court judge Vincent Femia, who said:

To appoint this group of people to study race is like appointing a group of people to decide if they should repaint the window frames of a house while the house is on fire. Yes, maybe the window frames do need repainting, but, if you sit around talking, pretty soon it is not going to make any difference.

If we are truly to have a dialog on race in America, it must begin with an honest, frank, and truthful discussion on how we treat and disrespect our Nation's poor and working families. If we do not do that, Mr. Speaker, any conversation we hope to have on racial healing will fall on deaf ears.

We must face and overcome these critical problems as one nation; indivisible, with an eye toward justice and liberty for all.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington [Ms. DUNN], Secretary of the Republican Conference.

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS], today to celebrate the end of slavery and its import in our country's history and in its heritage.

Although slavery was abolished officially in 1863, the last slave was not freed until 2 years later; and we know that the struggle for equity did not end even then. In fact it will not truly be over until all men and women are equal, until people truly are judged by the content of their character rather than the color of their skins and until the time that those little boxes on applications for jobs no longer exist. I am proud to say I do believe we are on our way.

I am pleased to join this celebration today to honor the memory of those who endured slavery and especially those who moved from slavery to freedom. The former slaves, just like George Washington and Abe Lincoln, Harriet Tubman or Martin Luther King, are true American heroes. I commend the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS] for introducing this resolution. I look forward to working very closely together with their leadership on this issue.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there is a spiritual I learned as a little boy called "Faith of Our Fathers." It talks about an enduring faith in the ideals and principles of our forefathers. It goes like this; it says:

Faith of our fathers, living still, in spite of dungeon, fire and sword. Oh, how our hearts

beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word. Faith of our fathers. Holy faith. We will be true to thee till death.

It goes on to say:

Faith of our fathers, chained in prisons dark, were still in heart and conscience free. How sweet would be their children's fate. If they, like them, could die for thee. Faith of our fathers. Holy faith. We will be true to thee till death.

Finally it says:

Faith of our fathers. We will love both friend and foe in all our strife; and preach thee, too, as love knows how, by kindly words and virtuous life. Faith of our fathers. Holy faith. We will be true to thee till death.

The solution to these problems lies in creating and maintaining a vibrant economic base that will help our cities and families.

Economic development is crucial to survival of the African-American community. One way of doing this is by mobilizing cooperative efforts between government, business and the community.

Federal empowerment zones pair the Federal Government with economically distressed areas to provide incentives for entrepreneurs, established firms, and employees that invest and work in areas that they would otherwise find unattractive.

Empowerment zones challenge communities to develop and submit strategic visions for creating jobs and opportunities.

But we have to focus inwards as well. Those of us who have been blessed must acknowledge the obligation to return to our communities and give something back. We must invest in our human capital by acting as sources of inspiration and role models for our youth. African-American youth need to be encouraged to believe in themselves and their abilities.

By exposing our youth to new options, by opening their eyes to new alternatives, by showing our youth that we have faith in them, we can begin to instill in them the sense of pride and self-confidence necessary to prevent the high school dropout rates, illiteracy, teen pregnancy, and drug use that plagues our communities.

But, Mr. Speaker, I fear that we have once again begun a sad march backwards in regard to educating the next generation already with the passage of proposition 209 in California. That great State has seen an alarming 80 percent reduction in the application of minorities to be part of the class of 2001. Will we once again slam the door in the faces of young people seeking to be the best that they can be? I certainly hope not.

Mr. Speaker, we can and we must do better. June tenth celebrates and commemorates the joy and hope that the newly freed slaves felt in Texas on that day long ago in 1865. But it is also incumbent upon us to recommit ourselves this day to the continuing struggle for economic, political, educational, and social accomplishment if we are to realize the goal of this Na-

tion's Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Dr. King came to Washington over 34 years ago and spoke of a dream. But also on that historic day, he spoke of a promissory note of justice, equality, and freedom which America had defaulted upon. He said, it had been returned to the American Negro marked, and I quote, "insufficient funds."

I believe that the promissory note is long overdue. America must now begin to live up to its full potential and finally offer all of her citizens the right to life, liberty, and the full pursuit of happiness.

As we pause to remember Juneteenth, Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of a song recorded by the artist Michael Bolton. It is a song that I dedicate today to our ancestors, who came before us, to all of you wherever you may be, wherever your spirits are, we say to you that we will pick up the mantle and we will run with it. The song goes like this, and it is a very simple song but a very significant one. It says:

I have often dreamed of a far off place where a heroes welcome would be waiting for me. Where the crowds will cheer when they see my face and a voice keeps saying this is where I am meant to be. I will be there someday. I can go the distance. I will find my way if I can be strong. I know every mile will be worth my while when I go the distance I will be right where I belong. I will go down the road to embrace my fate though that road may wander it will lead me to you. And a thousand years would be worth the wait it might take a lifetime but somehow I will see it through.

And I will not look back I can go the distance and I will stay on track, no I will not accept defeat. It is an uphill slope but I won't lose hope until I go the distance and my journey ends for me.

To look beyond the glory is the hardest part, for a heroes strength is measured by his heart.

Like a shooting star, I will go the distance. I will search the world. I will face it all.

I do not care how far, I can go the distance until I find my heroes welcome waiting in your arms.

To our ancestors we say:

I will search the world. I will face its harms until I find my heroes welcome waiting in your arms.

That is what this faith event is truly all about, surviving hardships and going the distance. I urge the House to suspend the rules and pass House Joint Resolution 56.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before the House today resonates with all Members and with all citizens. Its importance is not limited to the descendants of slaves. Slavery was a blight on

our Nation, a betrayal of the fundamental principles on which this Nation was founded, that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with unalienable rights.

The end of slavery was an indispensable step in implementing that principle for all citizens.

I thank the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma for sponsoring this resolution and shepherding it through the House. His own life is an inspiration for all Americans and forceful proof of what men and women can achieve in a free society.

From humble origins he became a star quarterback at the University of Oklahoma. Now he is a distinguished Member of this House and a star among all our Members. His life and his career and the lives and achievements of countless Americans throughout this country remind us how much Juneteenth means to all Americans.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 54, on which I am proud to be listed as an original cosponsor. This constitutional amendment would empower Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the American flag. My support for this amendment is based on my strong belief in the values of liberty, equality, and personal responsibility which Americans have fought to defend. The flag is a unifying symbol which uniquely embodies the values upon which our Nation was founded, grew, and will continue to prosper.

As I stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives, I am reminded of the importance of the flag as something which brings us together when many other forces seem to pull us apart. This Chamber has seen debates on the most divisive issue facing our Nation. Much ado has been made of growing partisanship within this body. Yet, no matter what the issue of the day, we in the House of Representatives begin each day with the pledge of allegiance. At that point, we discard all other labels and collectively honor the flag which brings us together as one nation.

Not that the flag represents identical things to all of us. To the veteran it may represent the challenges and triumphs of the battlefield. To an immigrant it may represent unimagined opportunity. To a skeptic it ensures the right to disagree while to many others it represents the power of majority rule.

Americans live and think and work and worship in many different ways—not always compatibly and not always politely, but always under the same flag.

The flag's desecration is an affront to the freedoms, justice, and democracy for which it stands. On a more personal level, the flag's desecration is also an affront to the memory of all Americans who were willing to sacrifice their very lives for free speech, free worship, free association. Some Americans made those sacrifices on foreign and domestic battlefields, some on the Underground Railroad to freedom, some on the western plains and mountains as they struggled to tame a wild land, some in the poverty of inner city challenges. Each and every one of these brave patriots fought for the ideals represented by our flag, and each and every one deserves our respect and gratitude.

Protection of our flag is a noble goal which I strongly support. As our Nation prepares to

celebrate Flag Day, it is important that each of us find ways in which we can not only protect but also honor this most central of national symbols. Our flag is honored when we love our land, our families, and our rights. Our flag is honored when people speak out about injustice. Our flag is honored when someone risks their own comfort and position to help another.

I challenge every man, woman, and child who loves this Nation to find ways to honor the values which our flag embodies and I urge my colleagues to support House Joint Resolution 54.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 130th year of the celebration of Juneteenth.

Juneteenth is the traditional celebration of the anniversary of emancipation. And, just as those former slaves vowed on June 19, 1865, to never forget the day slavery was officially abolished, we too must never forget slavery and the brave men and women who endured its horrible monstrosities. On June 14 and 15, 75,000 western New Yorkers upheld the vow to never forget the abolishment of slavery and those who endured it.

The celebration of Juneteenth has also developed into a forum for the proud display of African-American culture and history. This grand history lesson not only helps us look back, but it helps us all look forward. We should now be looking forward to and working towards an era of unprecedented peace and reconciliation. House Joint Resolution 56, introduced by Mr. WATTS, is an excellent opportunity for this Congress and this Nation to take a step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the tens of thousands of western New Yorkers, and millions of Americans across the Nation in recognition of the Juneteenth and this historic celebration of the end of slavery in America.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 56, a resolution of the Congress acknowledging the celebration of Juneteenth as an important and enriching part of our Nation's heritage. Juneteenth commemorates the day, June 19, 1865, when word of the end of slavery in the United States reached the American Southwest. Although President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, it took some 2½ years for the news to reach Texas and other southwestern slave-holding States. Former slaves in the region coined the term "Juneteenth" to recall the date they received the news of their freedom, and they celebrated the anniversary of emancipation at this time each year. As descendants of these former slaves have spread throughout the Nation, the 130-year-old celebration has spread as well. Today, Juneteenth is celebrated by many African-Americans in most of the now 50 States.

Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth marks the close of a very long and dark chapter of our Nation's history—and the beginning of America's attempt to make its promise of freedom, liberty, and equality ring true for all Americans. The succeeding 130 years have brought momentous changes in our society. Through struggle and sacrifice, in the face of violent hostility and grave indignities, African-Americans have injected substance into the mantra equal justice under law, and we are today a freer, stronger Nation for it. Juneteenth is thus a time for celebrating the freedoms now guaran-

teed to all Americans through the Constitution and laws of our great land, and for reflecting on the courage of those who endured slavery and who fought to make America fulfill the promise of its founding principles. It is also, Mr. Speaker, a time to renew the commitment to correct inequalities and injustices which persist. Thus, although Juneteenth finds its origins in the southwest, it is clearly a celebration which embodies lessons of immense value and significance for all Americans across this great Nation.

I commend my colleague Congressman J.C. WATTS of Oklahoma for introducing this resolution, and I urge all of my colleagues to support House Joint Resolution 56.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of House Joint Resolution 56, in support of this legislation granting special recognition to the date of June 19, or Juneteenth, the date that the last slaves were considered freed in the United States, in 1865. I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] for writing and introducing this legislation.

Dr. Martin Luther King, in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, said he looked forward to a day when people would be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. We have come a long way toward this goal as a nation since the first Juneteenth almost 132 years ago. I believe we have come a long way since Dr. King gave his speech. But it would not be correct—and it would not even be American—to suggest that we do not yet have a ways to go before Dr. King's dream is fulfilled.

To succeed as a nation, we should return to basic principles. One of these is to recognize and celebrate the fact that we are all Americans. The motto of this Nation is "E Pluribus Unum"—out of many, one. Out of many nations, races, and faiths, we have all come together in this land called America. We are united by our Constitution, our laws, our flag, and our desire to achieve the American dream and a better future for our children.

The celebration of Juneteenth continues the American march of embracing, celebrating, and advancing the cause of freedom in our own land, and around the globe. Of that, we can be proud, but we can never be content.

I would like to insert into the RECORD an essay published by the National Christian Juneteenth Leadership Council, describing the history of Juneteenth.

THE BLACK CHURCH AND JUNETEENTH
JUNETEENTH: A CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM
WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

Juneteenth or June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation did not come until General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and issued General Order No. 3, on June 19, almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

BUT DIDN'T THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION
FREE THE ENSLAVED?

President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, notifying the states in rebellion against the Union that if they did not cease their rebellion and return to the Union by January 1, 1863, he would declare their slaves forever free. Needless to say, the proclamation was ignored by those states that seceded from the Union.

Furthermore, the proclamation did not apply to those slave-holding states that did not rebel against the Union. As a result about 800,000 slaves were unaffected by the provisions of the proclamation. It would take a civil war to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to formally outlaw slavery in the United States.

WHEN IS JUNETEENTH CELEBRATED?

Annually, on June 19, in more than 200 cities in the United States. Texas (and Oklahoma) is the only state that has made Juneteenth a legal holiday. Some cities sponsor week-long celebrations, culminating on June 19, while others hold shorter celebrations.

WHY IS JUNETEENTH CELEBRATED?

It symbolizes the end of slavery. Juneteenth has come to symbolize for many African-Americans what the fourth of July symbolizes for all Americans—freedom. It serves as a historical milestone reminding Americans of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery. It honors those African-Americans ancestors who survived the inhumane institution of bondage, as well as demonstrating pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance they left us.

WHY NOT JUST CELEBRATE THE FOURTH OF JULY
LIKE OTHER AMERICANS?

Blacks do celebrate the Fourth of July in honor of American Independence Day, but history reminds us that blacks were still enslaved when the United States obtained its independence.

WHY WERE SLAVES IN TEXAS THE LAST TO KNOW
THAT THEY WERE FREE?

During the Civil War, Texas did not experience any significant invasion by Union forces. Although the Union army made several attempts to invade Texas, they were thwarted by Confederate troops. As a result, slavery in Texas continued to thrive. In fact, because slavery in Texas experienced such a minor interruption in its operation, many slave owners from other slave-holding states brought their slaves to Texas to wait out the war. News of the emancipation was suppressed due to the overwhelming influence of the slave owners.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of House Joint Resolution 56 and I urge my colleagues to support it. This non-binding resolution would celebrate the end of slavery.

The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 is the celebrated document which symbolizes the end of slavery in the United States. However, it took over 2 years for news of freedom to reach Texas. It was not until June 19, 1865 when U.S. Gen. Gordon Granger rode into Galveston and announced that the State's 200,000 slaves were free, that slavery was truly abolished throughout all of the United States. In an attempt never to forget this truly historical day, African-Americans who were slaves and their descendants refer to this day as Juneteenth, and they have been celebrating this date annually for over 130 years.

This measure would bring public attention to this very meaningful passage in American history. An official recognition of Juneteenth provides an opportunity for all Americans to learn more about the legacy of this country. Equally important, an official recognition of Juneteenth reflects the desire of the American people to acknowledge all aspects of our past, even those painful aspects, and build a unified thus stronger bridge together into our future.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here today to offer my support for

House Joint Resolution 56 which calls for the celebration of the end of slavery. The need to celebrate the end of this most dubious time in America's short history, pervades the thoughts of many, though more so during this month of June.

During the month of June and, specifically, June 13–19, thousands of people, especially blacks, come together to celebrate the end of slavery. The celebration, called Juneteenth, commemorates the date in 1865 when slaves in Texas discovered, a full 2½ years after the fact, that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Slave-owners in eastern Texas successfully hid the news of their emancipation for 2½ years. They were not notified of their freedom until Union army officers told them on June 19, 1865, hence the name Juneteenth.

Juneteenth has been recognized as a holiday in Texas for quite some time, but has extended beyond Texas borders in recent years. Juneteenth is celebrated throughout many communities nationwide, incorporating parades, musical performances, and other festivities.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation did much to dismantle the structure of slavery, but did not dismantle the institution. The story of those eastern Texas slaves is a visceral reminder of the fact that even after the Emancipation Proclamation, many slaves were indeed, not free. Throughout the South, slaves were not notified of their freedom by land-owners for years. The problem was not confined to the South.

In my home State of New Jersey, as of the same year, 1865, the Democratic controlled State legislature still refused to ratify the 13th amendment, which abolished slavery. Clearly they were not free either. In 1866, the republican State legislature ratified the 13th amendment along with the 14th amendment, which guaranteed the citizenship rights of everyone born in the United States. But this same legislature refused to grant the franchise to blacks. In 1868, the again Democrat controlled State legislature rescinded the ratification of the 14th amendment and 2 years later in 1870, refused to ratify the 15th amendment which extended the franchise to all races.

The saving grace of the New Jersey blacks was that enough States ratified the amendment to make it national law. It is evident that the plight of the slave and black families did not end with Lincoln's proclamation, nor was it confined to Southern boundaries.

Even after such amendments, it took still longer for blacks to acculture themselves to rights afforded to the free American citizen. It is the cultural metamorphosis of the African and the slave into the unique experience of the African-American that truly marks emancipation. The Juneteenth celebration is much larger than a celebration commemorating the long-overdue emancipation of the eastern Texas slaves, it is a celebration of the long overdue emancipation of all slaves. It is a celebration of the dismantling of the slavery institution; a dismantling of the bureaucratic engine that sought to halt black's freedom, long after their emancipation was declared, not unlike the Texas slave master.

Though Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery, it is by no means just an African-American holiday. Juneteenth is a celebration

which brings together everyone. It is important for everyone to remember and acknowledge this chapter in American history. We all have to take responsibility.

This past week President Clinton made a great stride in opening a national dialog on race relations. His plan to establish a Presidential advisory board to allow Americans to speak out about racial issues shows initiative and a willingness to confront the ongoing racial tensions in our multicultural society. We can only hope that President Clinton's good intentions will be buttressed by action. In closing I ask that you join me and my colleagues in supporting House Joint Resolution 56. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. GIBBONS]. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass to the joint resolution, House Joint Resolution 56.

The question was taken.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 56.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained and then on the approval of the Journal.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1057 by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1058 by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 985 by the yeas and nays;

House Joint Resolution 56 by the yeas and nays;

and approval of the Journal de novo.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

ANDREW JACOBS, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1057, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. McHUGH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1057, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 204]

YEAS—413

Abercrombie	Canady	Ehrlich
Ackerman	Cannon	Emerson
Aderholt	Carson	Engel
Allen	Castle	English
Andrews	Chabot	Eshoo
Archer	Chambliss	Etheridge
Armey	Chenoweth	Evans
Bachus	Christensen	Everett
Baesler	Clay	Ewing
Baker	Clayton	Farr
Baldacci	Clement	Fattah
Ballenger	Clyburn	Fawell
Barcia	Coble	Fazio
Barr	Coburn	Filner
Barrett (NE)	Collins	Flake
Barrett (WI)	Combest	Foglietta
Bartlett	Condit	Foley
Barton	Conyers	Forbes
Bass	Cook	Ford
Bateman	Cooksey	Fowler
Becerra	Costello	Fox
Bentsen	Cox	Frank (MA)
Bereuter	Coyne	Franks (NJ)
Berman	Cramer	Frelinghuysen
Berry	Crane	Frost
Bilbray	Crapo	Furse
Bilirakis	Cubin	Gallegly
Bishop	Cummings	Ganske
Blagojevich	Cunningham	Gejdenson
Bliley	Danner	Gekas
Blumenauer	Davis (FL)	Gephardt
Blunt	Davis (IL)	Gibbons
Boehlert	Davis (VA)	Gilchrest
Boehner	Deal	Gillmor
Bonilla	DeFazio	Gilman
Bonior	DeGette	Gonzalez
Bono	Delahunt	Goode
Borski	DeLauro	Goodlatte
Boswell	Dellums	Goodling
Boucher	Dickey	Gordon
Boyd	Dicks	Goss
Brady	Dingell	Granger
Brown (CA)	Dixon	Green
Brown (FL)	Doggett	Greenwood
Bryant	Dooley	Gutierrez
Bunning	Doolittle	Gutknecht
Burr	Doyle	Hall (OH)
Burton	Dreier	Hall (TX)
Buyer	Duncan	Hamilton
Calvert	Dunn	Hansen
Camp	Edwards	Harman
Campbell	Ehlers	Hastert