

provided key medical assistance for NATO forces. In one instance, the company even found itself rescuing a combat unit which found itself trapped in a minefield. To avoid detonation of the mines, the combat unit stood on the hood of its vehicle as the 24th Medical Company lowered its helicopter and whisked the other unit to safety. Support units often are placed into precarious situations and are deserving of recognition for their efforts beyond their routine duties.

Madam Speaker, legislation such as H. Con. Res. 154 offers Congress an opportunity to reaffirm the important role of all National Guard combat and support such units in each of the armed services.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 154.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 163) recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of Congress that history be regarded as a means of understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 163

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the country until long after the conclusion of the Civil War, especially in the Southwestern United States;

Whereas the African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest thereafter celebrated June 19, known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas these African Americans handed down that tradition from generation to generation as an inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have thus been held for 136 years to honor the memory of all those who endured slavery and especially those who moved from slavery to freedom; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character shown by these former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, region, or race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, an important date in the Nation's history, and encourages the continued celebration of this day to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) history be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future; and

(B) the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 163.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 163, and commend the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for sponsoring this important resolution. The resolution recognizes the historic significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and encourages its continued celebration so all Americans can learn more about our past.

The resolution also expresses the sense of Congress that knowing our history helps us understand our past and solve challenges we face in the future, and it expresses the sense of Congress that the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.

Madam Speaker, Juneteenth has long been recognized as the day to celebrate the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is the traditional celebration of the day on which the last slaves in America were freed.

Although slavery was abolished officially in 1863, it took over 2 years for news of freedom to spread to all slaves. On June 19th, 1865, U.S. General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and announced that the State's 200,000 slaves were free. Vowing never to forget the date, the former slaves coined the nickname Juneteenth, a blend of the words June and 19th, actually today. This holiday originated in the Southwest, but today it is celebrated throughout the Nation.

This resolution underscores that the observance of Juneteenth Independence Day is an important and enriching part of our country's history and heritage. 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 great Nation.

I urge all Members to approve the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I first of all want to congratulate the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), and I am pleased to join with him in introducing this resolution and bringing it to the floor for quick action.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 163, particularly today, Juneteenth Independence Day. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves of the southern States that had seceded from the Union.

However, it was not until June 19, 1865, that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas, with the news that the war had ended and that all slaves were now free.

The reaction to the news ranged from shock to immediate jubilation. June 19th, coined Juneteenth, became a time for former slaves to pray and to gather together with remaining family members. Education, self-improvement, and prayer services were and still are a major part of Juneteenth celebrations.

Though Texas is the only State to declare June 19 a legal holiday, it is celebrated in communities throughout the country. Juneteenth celebrations are a tribute to all Americans who fought to end slavery and who work hard for social and racial equality. It is an appropriate holiday to precede Independence Day on July 4. The promise of justice and equality contained within the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution were realized on this day for many people in 1865.

Today marks the 136th celebration of Juneteenth, which was originally handed down through the old tradition, from generation to generation, and finally formally honored for the first time in Texas in 1972.

Juneteenth is indeed a time to reflect on and honor those who suffered the tragedy of slavery in America. It is also a time to appreciate the social, political, educational, and economic possibilities afforded by social and racial equality. In short, Juneteenth for many African Americans represents what the Fourth of July means for mainstream America: a celebration of the promise of freedom.

As I listened this morning to my favorite radio station, WVON, to talk show host Cliff Kelly, my former colleague from the Chicago City Council, as Cliff was engaging callers in Juneteenth and the meaning of it, all of the calls were indeed positive and represented the idea that celebration was appropriate for this day.

So I want to commend radio station WVON for its efforts. I also want to congratulate and commend State Representative Monique Davis, who has introduced legislation in the Illinois General Assembly. This resolution recognizes Juneteenth Day as a day that all of America can celebrate freedom, and recognize that being free, spiritually, physically, socially, financially, educationally, and professionally is meaningful.

So for this reason, I urge all of my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 163.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to our distinguished leader, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut, for yielding time to me.

Madam Speaker, when General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, on this day 136 years ago, slaves were given notice that they were free. Even though President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had the effect of law on the first day of 1863, his executive order was not in force to even communicate it in some parts of our Nation.

The celebrations on the evening of June 19, 1865, were filled with singing and feasting. After so much injustice, the last vestige of slavery had been eradicated and the United States was truly a land where, as our Declaration of Independence declared, all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Juneteenth is a day of celebration and of learning. We should rejoice in the great land that we all call America and give thanks for our freedom, and know that there were days when that freedom was not enjoyed by all of her citizens.

The resolution we are considering today recognizes Juneteenth and encourages Americans to learn from our past so we may better prepare for our future. It celebrates the achievements of all Americans, no matter if they are red, yellow, brown, black, or white, and offers us an opportunity to reflect on how one country saw slavery and freedom within the course of our relatively short existence as a nation in this world.

I thank my colleagues for their support on this Juneteenth resolution, and I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I very much appreciate that the gentleman from Illinois has yielded me this time, and I appreciate his work on this and so many bills of importance to the African American community and to our country.

I appreciate the work of my good friend, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), who is managing the bill, who has always stood for principles of equal opportunity, and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) for his leadership in bringing forward this bill, as well.

Madam Speaker, I am not sure how to approach Juneteenth. It is a date fraught with poignancy and symbolism, poignancy because it is not the date on which the slaves were emancipated. That was January 1, 1863. It was simply the date that the good news finally made its way into Texas; some say by conspiracy, some say just because they did not get there and somebody was waylaid.

In any case, it was a cause for great celebration. If one learned 2½ years late that slaves had been emancipated by the Emancipation Proclamation, that is to say, by executive order, one had every reason to celebrate.

We are not here this afternoon to celebrate. This date is fraught with symbolism as well because the news of the civil rights laws has not reached all who need to hear it in America. I speak as a former chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where I had hands-on experience, up close, to see what enforcement takes, and as a Member of Congress to see what we still have to do now.

□ 1530

Nobody who celebrated her emancipation on June 19, 1865, would want us to do anything but make this not a cause of celebration, not even a cause for commemoration, but a cause for combustion, to get the news out to those in the administration, to employers and to Americans throughout our country, that the civil rights laws are not only in the books but they need strong enforcement.

Indeed, Madam Speaker, we need new laws as well. I have introduced a racial profiling bill that I hope will be part of the transportation bill coming forward next year. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is also preparing a racial profiling bill.

These bills indicate that there is real unfinished work even on putting laws on the books. It takes us back to the 1960s. We thought we had at least put the laws on the books then. Racial profiling is overt, deliberate, looking in your face, you are black, you are Hispanic, you do not look like me, you are under arrest or at least I-am-stopping-you discrimination. That is the kind of discrimination this is.

We cannot let \$250 billion go out of this House next year, unless there is a provision that says you cannot get this money unless you have laws barring racial profiling, unless you enforce them and unless you keep racial statistics.

Look, if we reduce Juneteenth to a moment of nostalgia, we trivialize its importance. Our country was 2½ weeks late getting to the slaves in Texas. We are 2½ centuries late taking care of this business called discrimination.

Let Resolution 163 be the beginning of the end of the last great form of overt and deliberate discrimination in our country, the discrimination that stops a man or stops a woman on the street only because that person is black. If my colleagues are willing to vote for this resolution, I hope my colleagues will vote to give it meaning when the racial profiling provisions come to the floor.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN).

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, let me begin by offering my congratulations and commendations to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), as well as to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), my Republican colleague, for their leadership in bringing this matter to our attention; but for their efforts, Juneteenth might be a little-noticed footnote in American history.

That certainly should not be the case, because, while it is not recognized on a par with the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation is like the Declaration of Independence, part of our tradition and passion for freedom in the United States.

It is a very interesting episode in our history, and I find myself fascinated by it, that Abraham Lincoln, through executive order, declared the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; but somehow the word did not get to slaves in Texas until 2½ years later, on June 19, 1865.

There are lots of stories as to what happened. There is some that say that the original messenger was murdered. There are others who say the Union soldiers who had the message thought that they would hold off so the slave owners could get in another season's worth of planting and reaping before the word went out that slavery was to be no more.

Whatever the case was, on June 19, 1865, Major General Jordan Granger led Union troops into Galveston, Texas, and announced that, in fact, slavery had come to an end; and now the relationship between the former slaves and the former masters was going to be that of employer and free laborer.

As you might imagine, some of the newly freed slaves did not wait around to negotiate a labor agreement on this subject. They immediately left their plantations, their former owners and headed north, as well as to other parts of the country where they had family, to begin their new lives.

There were many who did stay around to talk about it, and out of that experience evolved what we have come to call Juneteenth, the celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation. It arrived out of a rural tradition of a family gathering, of picnics and barbeques and, generally, a notion that this is a great thing, this freedom, that we are very pleased to be a part of it and let us take advantage of it.

It also evolved into an opportunity to focus on questions of education and self-improvement which was really what freedom from slavery was all about, an opportunity to get education and, most importantly, an opportunity to express that freedom through self-improvement.

Today we do have a celebration called Juneteenth to mark that historic occasion. This occasion, however, does reflect forward to events that happen today in America. You can say in the case of Juneteenth, things do not always work the way they were intended, a message arrived 2½ years late.

Recently in Florida, things did not work the way they were intended, and you have to excuse the African American community if we are a little bit skeptical. We consider there to have been great disenfranchisement, and things did not work the way they should have. People who were eligible to vote were denied an opportunity to vote to a significant degree.

Madam Speaker, out of Juneteenth comes not just skepticism, it comes hope, because the newly freed slaves had hoped that they would be full participants in America. And despite the difficulties that we have seen in the Florida in the past election, we are moving forward with hope that an electoral reform bill will come out of this Congress, which will make sure that things that did not go the way they should have will go the right way in the future.

Juneteenth is not just a celebration of what happened. It is also an important milestone in our American history and a marker for our future conduct. It joins many other cultural celebrations, Cinco de Mayo, St. Patrick's Day, the Chinese New Year, as a part of our diverse American quilt.

It is an important occasion, an occasion for great celebration, the emancipation of the slaves in America. I am delighted to be a part of this celebration; and again, I thank the sponsors.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the very capable gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I thank the very distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for yielding me such time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 163, which celebrates Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery. I want to commend the two authors of this resolution, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), for introducing this resolution.

Though the abolition of slavery and Confederate States had become official more than 2 years earlier in 1863, it had little impact on Texans, because there were no Union troops to enforce the new edict.

It was not until June 19, 1865, that the final group of slaves were freed by

Union troops who brought news of the Emancipation Proclamation to Galveston, Texas.

I find it to be a testament of the strength and growth of our great Nation that on January 1, 1980, in the same State that the last slaves were freed, Juneteenth became an official State holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American Texas State legislator.

The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration to be granted official State recognition.

Today's resolution clearly states that history should be regarded as a means of understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future. Juneteenth reminds us that we must continue to challenge the American conscience and strive to create civil equality for all of our brothers and sisters. Racism and inequality, distrust and misunderstanding often continue to divide us as a Nation.

Our efforts will not be finished until social justice prevails and all of our children can contemplate "a Nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Today, it is important that we also promote the celebration of Juneteenth in our communities. Last night in my district, Montgomery County, Maryland, Juneteenth committee members Laura Anderson Wright, Russ Campbell, Tina Clark, Wilbert Givens, Dory Hackey, Richard Myles, Shirley Small Roseau, and Gail Street held a celebration, which they had organized, that began with a tour at the Sandy Spring Maryland Slave Museum and African Art Gallery, whose president and founder was there, Dr. Winston Anderson. The ceremony concluded at the Ross Body Community Center in the historic town of Sandy Spring, Maryland.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend these committee members for their dedication and hard work for such a noble cause.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to ensure that Juneteenth is celebrated in their home districts and to support this resolution on the 136th anniversary of the emancipation.

I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for his generosity in yielding me such time as I have consumed.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the very passionate gentleman from New Jersey, (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, two great Americans sponsored this resolution, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS). I am proud to be associated with both of them.

Juneteenth, but also the name of a great book written by what I consider one of the great authors of the 20th century, Ralph Ellison, who wrote the "Invisible Man," often misunderstood, often derided.

Madam Speaker, yes, the Supreme Court made a decision and Dred Scott, in that decision, was overturned in 1862, actually, 3 years before exactly to the day of Juneteenth; sometimes the Supreme Court needs to be corrected by the Congress of the United States.

The Emancipation Proclamation receives its national appreciation, its rightful appreciation as the gateway to freedom for African Americans; but it took a Civil War and the 13th amendment to the United States to formally outlaw slavery.

That Emancipation Proclamation resulted in millions of slaves throughout the country who were unaffected by the provisions of the proclamation; and as my colleagues have already heard, word traveled very slowly.

Madam Speaker, this is indeed a celebration, but time for us to reflect on what this meant. Juneteenth serves as a historical milestone reminding all people of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery.

I think we should all take a moment not only to recognize the moral bankruptcy of slavery, but also to celebrate the achievements of those living in such inhumane conditions; and despite the rigors of slavery, African Americans contributed everything from agricultural inventions and medical breakthroughs to music. They have contributed a legacy of culture, of language, religion, a lesson of survival.

Ralph Ellison, who I believe is one of the great writers of the 20th century, he was an African American and frequently misunderstood. The genius of blacks, of black culture, was not in race, he wrote, but in human beings who bore the race. Blood and skin do not think.

There were demonic conscious and unconscious dehumanizing acts against blacks, no question about it; but the progress and opportunity for blacks in America could not depend on white oppressors changing their behavior and changing their mind as much as it would depend on individuals understanding and believing in their own God-given resources.

□ 1545

Ellison believed that to believe solely in the idea that white oppression determined the freedom of blacks was to minimize the power of each black person and it would make redemption depend upon how it was treated. We do not accept that any longer. This was a perspective. The outskirts of society allowed him to run point on its greatest ideals while grieving over its greatest failures.

He argued against the idea that there existed a required mode of racial anger. There were, he contended, many possible responses to injustice. He wrote there was even an American Negro tradition which abhors as obscene any trading on one's own anguish for gain or sympathy. Powerful words. Powerful words in our own society now.

We have decided for the most part that each black person in our society is

an incarnation, someone wrote that, of his race, and as Edward Rothstein wrote, being battered about by both blacks and whites who impose their visions of racial identity. Lincoln freed the slaves. Ellison would say only that slaves could free slaves, so that their fate and the fate of every black American cannot depend on anyone else. Individuality is a creative force within each person. Part of our birth, part of our heritage, and at best the body politic can protect but never create. No civil rights law, no Supreme Court decision, and no presidential order can undo what is in me.

I thank Ralph Ellison for giving us our great history and understanding, and on this great day of Juneteenth we celebrate the freedom of all of us. God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) has 12½ minutes remaining, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I know we have the right to close, but I would be happy to use my time and then yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) if he would like to close this debate.

Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time and commend the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for introducing this resolution. I also thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, as well as the ranking members of the full committee and subcommittees, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois Mr. DAVIS), for expediting consideration of the resolution.

Obviously, I urge all Members to support this resolution. I was reading the Emancipation Proclamation during part of this debate, and while I will not read it at this time, let me just say that it is a powerful piece. And when read in conjunction with General Granger's General Order Number 3, this paragraph, I can imagine what the impact must have been. General Granger comes into Galveston and he reads the following: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with the Proclamation of the Executive of the United States, all slaves are freed. This involves an absolute equality of rights," he continued, "and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

It is a powerful piece and, obviously, Americans have much to be grateful for. We can be very proud of our country that, in spite of all the terrible things that may have occurred during parts of our history, we are a Nation that moves forward, not backwards. I

think all of us are so proud to be Americans, but it is a work in process. The freedoms that were guaranteed under the Emancipation Proclamation and under the General Order Number 3 are still unfolding.

It is an exciting time to be an American, and I just am grateful to have the opportunity to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to serve our country and to serve our great people of all races.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and first let me thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for his graciousness and for his support of this resolution. There is not a more esteemed Member of this body with more graciousness than the gentleman from Connecticut, and I want him to know that we appreciate him.

I also, Madam Speaker, want to again congratulate the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) for the role that he has played in not only introducing but moving this resolution to the floor. I also want to thank the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), and the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), for making sure that there was an opportunity to discuss this resolution on the floor of the House on this day, June 19th, Juneteenth Day.

Madam Speaker, I know the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) had planned to be here and to speak on the resolution. Unfortunately, she was unable to do so.

I think this resolution speaks to America, some of its paradoxes, some of its problems; the recognition that even as slaves were freed, there were over 800,000 who did not know it, and there are people who would say that there are many people in our country today who do not know some of the freedoms that exist. There are many people in our country who do not know that they have an opportunity to seriously impact upon all of the public policy decisions that are made in our great Nation.

As we look at the tremendous documents that we have seen evolved, and as we recognize what they really meant, they really meant that there is the opportunity to always be in pursuit of freedom of equality, of justice, of equal opportunity. It also means that we are not there yet. But as long as there is movement towards the goal, then there is hope and possibility for America. There is the hope that America can become the America that it has not been but the America that we all know that it can be.

I also want to point out that this resolution provides an opportunity for us to take a look at a part of our history,

the period of reconstruction. And I want to commend Lerone Bennett, Senior Editor of Ebony Magazine, for the research and writings and work that he has done.

Finally, it was never brought to my attention more than last weekend, while driving to St. Louis to participate in a function with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), when my father and I, who is 89 years old, after the activity was able to interact with my uncle, who is 96 years old. Fortunately for both of them, they still have their wits and they still can recall things and they are both functional. They were discussing the period of their boyhoods and the fact that their grandparents were slaves; that my father's mother's parents were slaves; that my mother's mother's parents were slaves.

I am amazed at how much progress they made during the period of reconstruction without formal education, without a great deal of learning but using the experiences of their previous conditions to help build a new America. So Juneteenth recommends and recognizes not only the past but the presence and speaks to the future. So I would urge all of my colleagues to support it and would once again thank all of those who have helped to bring it to the floor on this day.

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of June 19, 2001, as Juneteenth Independence Day. I am pleased that House Concurrent Resolution 163 passed earlier today, recognizes the significance Juneteenth Independence Day and the importance of understanding our history and applying those lessons to our futures.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves across this country. Unfortunately, the Emancipation Proclamation had very little impact on Texas slaves where the news of the new freedom was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor forces on their plantations.

On June 19, 1865, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was delivered, General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas informing those still enslaved that they were now free. General Granger's first order of business was to read to the people General Order Number 3, which states, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

Today, we recognize the 136th anniversary of Juneteenth. Across America hundreds of celebrations are held to commemorate this important occasion. In my district, the Rock House Church International held a Juneteenth Jubilee at Recreation Park in Long Beach, California this past Saturday. This celebration served as a time for the community to gather and celebrate the freedoms all enjoy today. This event concluded with Leon Patillo signing the national anthem at the Long Beach Breakers baseball game. A fitting conclusion to the Juneteenth Jubilee.

Juneteenth was given official holiday status in Texas in 1980. Juneteenth has traditionally been celebrated in Texas and other bordering states, such as Louisiana and Arkansas. I thank Congressman Watts of Oklahoma for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 163 and expanding recognition of this event to a national celebration. Bringing this legislation to the floor today helps to bring awareness of Juneteenth to all corners of this country. Americans should use this historical milestone to remind us of the triumph of freedom over the cruelty of slavery.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my strong support for the recognition of the day that slavery in the United States came to an end. June 19, 1865 was coined as "Juneteenth Independence Day," for the newly freed slaves of the Southwest when they finally learned of the Thirteenth Amendment that legally abolished slavery, which was passed in January of 1863. This delay of vital news as delayed by the dawdling relay of information across the country in that day.

Since that day of emancipation, the descendants of slaves in the Southwest view this day as the anniversary of the end of a tragic period in our nation's history. It is known that the dishonor, suffering and brutality of slavery cannot be erased, but the memory and feeling can provide reassurance that such inhumanity should never again take part in the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, Juneteenth Independence Day is historically significant for not only those races subject to discrimination, but also for every freedom-loving American. It is a date that marked the development of equality, equal opportunity, and unity in the United States. I urge all of my fellow Members to vote with me in support of this bill that provides a means for both understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Congress to recognize the historic significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, many Americans celebrated their first independence day. However, we must not forget that on this day, the ancestors of African Americans were not included in this celebration. They were slaves. In 1841, Frederick Douglass said that from an American slave's perspective, July 4th "reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim." It would be almost ninety years before all Americans would finally celebrate their freedom.

On June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation and two months after the conclusion of the Civil War, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce that all slaves in the United States were free. This day, known as Juneteenth, signified the end of slavery across America and marked the independence of African Americans.

What began as a celebration in Texas has grown into a nationwide remembrance of one of the most significant events in our country's history. Today, Juneteenth festivities bring African American communities across the country together to honor and remember the struggle of our ancestors and rejoice in our freedom.

This historic day also recognizes the importance of furthering the knowledge of our great

Nation's history. Festivities remembering Juneteenth provide the opportunity for all Americans to gain a deeper understanding of those events that have shaped our nation's identity and the issues that continue to touch so many of our lives. Texas may have been late in receiving the news, but they were the first to acknowledge the importance of this day, making it a state holiday over twenty years ago. We, as a nation, should follow suit and pay tribute to this important day in American history.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Juneteenth. Juneteenth is a commemoration of the acknowledgment by African slaves in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, of their newfound freedom. It is also a celebration of the opportunity for African Americans to be free to express self-improvement and to gain more knowledge. This freedom was granted to all those in the United States of African decent by the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Unfortunately, in some parts of the country, news of the Proclamation did not reach people in a timely manner. In fact, it took two years to get word out to African slaves in Texas that their freedom had been granted. Although word was given to the slaves late, we must remember that it is never too late to join the effort to fight against racism around the world.

Some in this nation may not want to recall the atrocities of our past, however, we must not forget our history. While this nation has a great legacy to be proud of, we must also remember the mistakes of our past and learn from them. Today, we cannot act as if nothing is wrong when negative assumptions are made about an individual because of the color of his or her skin.

The question that still remains is how do we move forward. A few months from now, South Africa will play host to what will be the third World Conference Against Racism. This event is scheduled to take place in Durban, South Africa August 31st to September 7th 2001. As a nation, our participation in this conference is vital. As citizens of the United States of America, we all want to see our country moving forward stronger than ever. By supporting this conference, we can make an effort to move this country, as well as the world in the right direction.

I believe strongly that this day, June 19th is not only a celebration for African Americans, but also a celebration for our country as a whole. It represents all of the hardships that African Americans had to go through in helping construct this country and finally getting freedom and respect for the hardships they endured. As a citizen of this great country, I feel that it is America's duty to come together in showing respect to our fellow Americans on this day.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Juneteenth Independence Day that represents the end of slavery in the South. On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves. However, it was not until two and a half years later that all states were freed from bondage. Since that day on June 19, 1865, descendants of slaves have celebrated Juneteenth day. This celebration commemorates the struggles, dignity, and vision of a people who have rendered their lives for this great nation.

Although, Juneteenth Independence Day originated in Galveston, Texas, this day of

celebration delineates the importance of African American history all over the United States. In my district, a small town called Princeville reaps the benefit of Juneteenth Day. Princeville, the nation's oldest black chartered town was incorporated in February 1885 by the North Carolina General Assembly. The town of Princeville began as a small village of newly freed slaves who were trying to obtain their "day of jubilee." These slaves fought with grace to have something that they could call their own.

Juneteenth Independence Day completes the cycle of what we recognize as true democracy. The memories and history of that glorious day in June of 1865, has motivated African Americans as a people to continue to fight for equality for all. At this very moment, black voters in the state of Virginia have been moved by this day to get out and vote.

June 19th represents TRUE JUSTICE and TRUE FREEDOM. Let us not forget the importance that this day has impressed upon our history both past and present.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a celebration of freedom known as Juneteenth. In cities across the country, thousands of Americans—people of all nationalities, races and religions—are assembling to rejoice and reflect upon a milestone in American history—the official end of slavery.

Celebration of Juneteenth, June 19, as Emancipation Day began in 1865 when Texan slaves were finally notified of their freedom from the shackles of slavery. Prior to June 19, 1865, rumors of slavery were widespread; however, emancipation was not granted to Texan slaves until General Gordon Granger issued an order in Galveston, Texas declaring freedom for all slaves—some two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. When Texan slaves were finally given the news, a spirit of jubilee spread throughout the community as they prayed, sang and danced in celebration of their freedom. Newly freed slaves left the homes of slave-owners and immediately searched for family members and economic opportunities. Some simply chose to relish in their freedom. As a native Texan myself, I feel so strongly about the importance of Juneteenth and its legacy today.

Although many place significance on the untimely manner in which the news was delivered, reflecting upon the triumph and perseverance of the human spirit captures the true essence of the Juneteenth celebration. Juneteenth honors those African-Americans who travelled and survived the institution of slavery, thus encouraging free generations of African-Americans to take pride in the legacy of perseverance and strength they left behind.

As the popularity of Juneteenth grows both nationally and globally, people from all races, nationalities and creeds and realizing that Juneteenth is not only synonymous with slavery. Juneteenth represents an acknowledgment of a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 163, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

□ 1807

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 6 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON H.R. 2216, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-102) on the bill (H.R. 2216) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 2217, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. SKEEN, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-103) on the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002 and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. FROST. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democrat Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 169) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 169

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Rules: Mr. McGovern of Massachusetts.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Rules:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2001.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, I hereby resign from the House Committee on Rules.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. McGOVERN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on International Relations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As I have been appointed to the House Rules Committee effective today, I hereby resign my seat as a Member of the House International Relations Committee.

As always, I appreciate your support and friendship.

Warmly,

ALCEE L. HASTINGS,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FROST. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 170) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 170

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Rules: Mr. Hastings of Florida;

Committee on International Relations: Mrs. Watson of California.

Committee on Government Reform: Mrs. Watson of California.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1291, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 154, by the yeas and nays; and

H. Con. Res. 163, by the yeas and nays.

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

21ST CENTURY MONTGOMERY GI BILL ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1291.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1291, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]
YEAS—416

Abercrombie	Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)
Ackerman	Brady (TX)	Davis (FL)
Aderholt	Brown (FL)	Davis (IL)
Akin	Brown (OH)	Davis, Jo Ann
Allen	Brown (SC)	Deal
Andrews	Bryant	DeFazio
Armey	Burr	DeGette
Baca	Burton	Delahunt
Bachus	Buyer	DeLauro
Baird	Callahan	DeLay
Baker	Calvert	DeMint
Baldacci	Camp	Deutsch
Baldwin	Cantor	Diaz-Balart
Ballenger	Capito	Dicks
Barcia	Capps	Dingell
Barr	Capuano	Doggett
Barrett	Cardin	Dooley
Bartlett	Carson (IN)	Doolittle
Barton	Carson (OK)	Doyle
Bass	Castle	Dreier
Becerra	Chabot	Duncan
Bentsen	Chambliss	Dunn
Bereuter	Clay	Edwards
Berkley	Clayton	Ehlers
Berman	Clement	Ehrlich
Berry	Clyburn	Emerson
Biggert	Coble	Engel
Bilirakis	Collins	Eshoo
Bishop	Combest	Etheridge
Blagojevich	Condit	Evans
Blumenauer	Conyers	Everett
Blunt	Cooksey	Farr
Boehlert	Costello	Fattah
Boehner	Coyne	Ferguson
Bonilla	Cramer	Flake
Bonior	Crane	Fletcher
Bono	Crenshaw	Foley
Borski	Crowley	Ford
Boswell	Culberson	Fossella
Boucher	Cummings	Frank
Boyd	Cunningham	Frelinghuysen