

for the important role it has played in our Nation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, again I thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER for his great help.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 311

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol was established on December 1, 1941, in the Office of Civilian Defense;

Whereas during World War II the volunteer units of the Civil Air Patrol conducted search and rescue missions, provided air transportation for military personnel and cargo, towed targets for the training of Army Air Corps gunners, and patrolled the coasts of the United States searching for enemy submarines;

Whereas by the end of World War II the Civil Air Patrol had flown more than 500,000 hours, sunk 2 German U-boats, and saved hundreds of crash victims;

Whereas on July 1, 1946, the Civil Air Patrol was chartered by the United States as a nonprofit, benevolent corporation;

Whereas on May 26, 1948, the Civil Air Patrol was permanently established as a volunteer auxiliary of the United States Air Force;

Whereas since 1942 the cadet programs of the Civil Air Patrol have trained approximately 750,000 youth, providing them with leadership and life skills;

Whereas since 1942 the Civil Air Patrol has flown more than 1,000,000 hours of search and rescue missions, saving several thousand lives; and

Whereas since 1951 the aerospace education programs of the Civil Air Patrol have provided training and educational materials to more than 300,000 teachers, who have educated more than 8,000,000 students about aerospace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes the Civil Air Patrol for 60 years of service to the United States.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of House Concurrent Resolution 311 just adopted.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H.

Con. Res. 335) recognizing the significance of Black History Month and the contributions of black Americans as a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) to explain the concurrent resolution.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 335 expresses the sense of Congress that the contributions of black Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States and that the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and acknowledgment of Black History Month, a great tradition honoring and celebrating black Americans. This 74-year tradition seeks to broaden our vision of the world, the legacy of black Americans in our Nation's history, and their role in our Nation's future. I commend the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the first black Americans were brought to these shores as early as the 17th century. These black Americans and subsequent generations were enslaved and brought to America against their free will. Despite this setback, early black Americans made their mark in the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States. Black Americans have also contributed to protecting the Nation's security and freedom through service in the Armed Forces. In addition, they have built many of the Nation's strongest faith-based institutions which serve the Nation's poorest citizens, strengthen the Nation's moral code, and uplift its spirits.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we stand today and recognize the achievements of black Americans. Their heritage and history are invaluable learning tools to the people of our great Nation.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, when I think of this bill, which was introduced by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), I think of the words of Langston Hughes, the African-American poet, who stated:

“O, let America be America again.
The land that never has been yet
And yet must be.
The land where every man is free.
The land that’s mine—
The poor man’s, Indian’s, Negro’s, me—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood,

Whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry,
Whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again.”

□ 1130

That is from “Let America be America Again.” Those eloquent words of celebrated African American poet and writer Langston Hughes resound today as we celebrate Black History Month and as we discuss this resolution recognizing the significance of Black History Month.

On February 1, 2002, Mr. Hughes joined the other 24 prominent African Americans distinguished by having a stamp issued in their honor as part of the U.S. Postal Service’s Black Heritage Stamp service.

There was certainly a time in our not-too-distant past when this would have been unthinkable, issuing stamps depicting prominent African Americans. Indeed, this was the case in February 1926 when renowned African American educator Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of African American History and Life, designated a week in February coinciding with the birthdays of two great Americans, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, as Negro History Week. Mr. Woodson hoped that the contributions of African Americans would be studied as integral to our shared American history. Fifty years later, in 1976, the observance was expanded to embrace the entire month of February, and here we are today commemorating yet another Black History Month.

In 1926, the landscape in this country for African Americans was demonstrably different than it is today. At that time, “separate but equal,” a doctrine that afforded Black Americans second-class citizenship, was the law of the land, although an immoral one.

Through the heroic efforts of many Americans of all races, legalized discrimination became a thing of the past. This body passed landmark legislation, most notably the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. However, the story of racial discrimination did not end in 1965.

Here we are in 2002, and the theme for this year’s observance of Black History Month is most appropriately timed: “The color line revisited: Is racism dead?” The answer obviously is a resounding “no.”

One only needs to read the newspapers from around the country every day to see that racism is not dead. New York Times, January 15: “New Jersey troopers avoid jail in case that highlighted profiling.”

Chicago Tribune, January 21: “Racial profiling is bad policing.”

Detroit Free Press, January 11: “Black Arab-American leaders assail racial profiling.”

Denver Post, November 28, 2001: “Hispanics, Blacks, get searched more.”

Dallas Morning News, January 2, 2002: “Racial profiling ban takes effect.”

I could go on and on and on; but African Americans, despite our robust laws, face a daily dosage of humiliation as the result of racism. Thousands of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities have been the victims of racial, ethnic or national origin profiling; targeted, identified, stopped, questioned and searched by law enforcement officials under the guise of committing a crime, when in reality their only crime was the color of their skin or their country of origin.

Young black men are particularly prone to DWB, driving while black. Since September 11, law-abiding Arab-American citizens have been targeted for profiling by law enforcement officials. Racial profiling violates the equal protection provisions of our great Constitution. Not only is it un-American, it is also bad law enforcement.

Salim Muwakkil, in the Chicago Tribune, wrote about University of Toledo law professor David A. Harris' new book, "Profiles in Injustice: Why Racial Profiling Cannot Work." Harris' book, for the first time, compared all of the available data on racial profiling with relevant crime statistics and makes clear that the "hit rate," the rate at which police actually find contraband on people they stop in racial profiling, is actually lower for blacks than for whites. The hit rate for Latinos is much lower than for either.

In 2001, a Department of Justice report came to the same conclusion. Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights said, "Most Americans think that the most blatant forms of discrimination and segregation have ended, that we are dealing now with a much more complex, often more subtle form of discrimination. Yet incidents like the ones we are discussing now seem to belie the point. They seem to suggest that even the more blatant forms of discrimination, though not as institutionalized as they once were, are still occurring, and I think stand in mockery of the perception that America has become a color-blind nation."

Since June of last year, the End Racial Profiling Act of 2001 has been pending in our esteemed institution. This 107th Congress could put an end to racial profiling by passing this act and sending it to the President for signature. Then we would really be celebrating Black History Month 2002.

So I end, Mr. Speaker, as I began. "O, let America be America again; the land that never has been yet and must be; the land where every man is free."

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Black History Month. Since 1976, each year during the month of February, Black History Month is celebrated across the Nation.

The origins of Black History Month are dated back to 1976 when, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) said, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an American of African descent who was an educator and historian, set aside a special period of time in the month of February which began as Negro History Week, to recognize the heritage, the achievements and contributions of Americans of African descent to our great Nation.

When you consider that Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, is celebrated during February, it is only appropriate that those people whom he freed more than a century ago be celebrated during this month as well.

However, although February is officially recognized as Black History Month, we should celebrate black history throughout the entire year. This is a magnificent opportunity for everyone, red, yellow, brown, black and white, to learn about their own history.

After all, black history is American history. Rising from the horrors and brutality of slave roots, Americans of African descent are the epitome of strength and endurance, perseverance, intellect and creativity.

Throughout America's history, Americans of African descent have consistently served as a catalyst for change and progress. The innumerable struggles and successes of the African American people have made it possible for all Americans to enjoy and share the same civil rights and privileges which we all hold so dear: freedom, liberty, and equality.

It is impossible to imagine our world without the contributions of Americans of African descent. Americans of African descent have played an integral role in building this country and making it the superpower that we all know it to be today. From helping to fight the Civil War, to constructing America's most prominent addresses, the United States Capitol and the White House, as well as making some of the most important discoveries and inventions that to this day still influence every aspect of our lives, be it economics, politics, language, art, technology, food or music, Americans of African descent have made an extraordinary and indelible mark on American culture.

No one chooses to be born red, yellow, brown, black or white. Rather, the good Lord above makes that decision. And if it is good enough for God, it should be good enough for all of us; and it is surely good enough for me.

Therefore, I challenge each and every one of us who are gathered here today and all Americans to celebrate black history and the many different cultures that constitute this place that we all call home and the rest of the world calls America. After all, our diversity is our strength.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I urge passage of this resolution.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the end of Black History Month, a time when we are reminded of the great contributions of African-Americans to our Nation. Rhode Island has a proud history of African-American accomplishments ranging from the heroic deeds of the Black Regiment, which fought under General Nathaniel Greene during the American Revolution, to Ruth Simmons who, as president of Brown University, is the first African-American to head an Ivy League institution.

Last month, I met with civil rights leaders from Rhode Island to discuss the work of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and how we are still working to keep alive his vision for America. While we have made great strides since Dr. King's death, we have much more to accomplish. Throughout my service as a public official, I have met far too often with people with no access to affordable health care, housing, or even quality education for their children, and who fear for the safety of their loved ones because of gun violence. Congress must have the courage to address these problems immediately and promote efforts to improve the lives of all Americans.

We cannot tolerate violence and crimes that target a victim's race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. We must demand affordable health care and housing. We must support equal pay for equal work. And we must defend affirmative action in order to provide greater opportunities to minority students, workers, and business owners.

When accepting his Nobel Peace Prize Reverend King said, "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits." I challenge all of us to share Dr. King's audacity and to continue fighting for an America that offers equality for all.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the many achievements of African-Americans this February 2002, Black History Month.

The first Black History Month took place in 1926, when Carter G. Woodson chose the second week in February, a week that includes the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, to honor the contributions of African-Americans.

The rich history of African-Americans reflects the challenges our Nation has faced, the diversity of our people, and the bright future ahead. Throughout our history, African-Americans have bravely fought for the freedoms we hold dear. The first American to lose his life in the American Revolution was a free black man named Crispus Attucks and, posing as a double agent, a slave, James Armistead, a slave, received permission to enlist in the Army under French General Marquis de LaFayette, providing the Americans with crucial information about British naval support.

During the 19th century, many African-Americans joined the abolitionist movement, fighting against the injustices of slavery. We remember the bravery of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth who stood for the principles of freedom and equality.

The 20th century has also known many achievements of African-Americans. In New York a remarkable period of literary creativity in the 1920s and 1930s came to be known as