

in the home over the life of the mortgage. Extending this program will give us an opportunity to determine whether ARM loans are a good choice for veterans and sound policy.

Again, I am committed to giving our veterans the opportunity to own a home and to improve the VA's home loan program. I am honored to introduce legislation today that helps our veterans achieve the American Dream they fought to preserve.

#### AFRICAN-AMERICAN EMANCIPATION DAY

### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of the oldest and most celebrated holidays in African-American history, June 19th, African-American Emancipation Day.

On tomorrow's date 139 years ago, at the end of the Civil War, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and ensure that all slaves across the South were set free.

General Granger's order declared that "an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer." Upon hearing this news, the celebration began in the streets of Galveston and has spread through the years into a worldwide celebration commemorating African-American freedom.

In 1865, African-Americans began a long struggle to gain equal rights with other citizens. More than 100 years later, courageous men and women were still fighting for the civil rights of African Americans. The celebration of Juneteenth acknowledges the price, history, culture and freedom of part of our American society and helps to unify the Nation as a whole. African-Americans have played an important role throughout America's history, and we should all be grateful for their many contributions to our society.

The celebration of Juneteenth that has spread throughout this nation in these 139 years observes the momentous occasions in African-American history and the history of the United States. Each year, the Juneteenth celebration grows bigger and spreads farther than the year before, and I hope these events continue to broaden in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as African-Americans gather with family, friends, and neighbors in marking the tradition of Juneteenth, I extend my warmest wishes for a memorable celebration, and I ask all citizens to renew our commitment to a nation of equality and opportunity for all people.

#### HONORING BENT COUNTY WWII MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bent County World War II Memo-

rial Committee. Bent County was home to at least 1,200 men and women who served in WWII.

To commemorate their homegrown heroes, several citizens made the decision to gather as much information as possible about Bent County residents who served in the war. The 10 members of the WWII Memorial Committee have created a book to preserve the veterans' stories. On May 29, 2004 the book was displayed at the WWII Recognition Program at the old Bent County High School. The book not only contains personal stories and experiences of these veterans, but it also contains two pictures of each veteran, and information on where each veteran was stationed during the war. Other information that was entered included medals and honors veterans received during their time of service.

The committee has found approximately 400 of the 1,200 veterans, and they have received responses from at least 300. Aside from desperately seeking the information needed from the remainder of the veterans they are also collecting memorabilia including uniforms, military records, and cookbooks. The committee knows that this is an ongoing project, and the book and collection will eventually be displayed in the future John W. Rawlings Museum.

I am proud to serve a constituency that is willing to go to such great lengths to honor "America's Greatest Generation." Thank you to the following members of the Bent County WWII Memorial Committee: Fontella Gardner, Donna Dodson, Bill Lutz, Diane Baublits, Betty Pennington, Tom Pointon, Ron Kiniston, C.P. (Jerry) Bryant, Jr., Vivian Pitts, H.E. (Ed) Blackburn, Jr.

I would also like to extend a debt of gratitude to the individuals and businesses that offered special assistance to make this book and event a success: Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 2411, Kitty Ann Long, VFW Post 2411, Jace Ratzlaff, Constituent Advocate (Congresswoman MARILYN MUSGRAVE), Walmart, Safeway, Mark MacDonnell.

The Las Animas/Bent County Community is fortunate to have had such brave men and women to serve in WWII, and they are fortunate to have so many citizens that recognize the importance of their service to the United States of America.

#### SUPREME COURT STAYS OUT OF COLORADO REDISTRICTING

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the RECORD the editorial from the New York Times, June 11, to which I referred to in my speech to the House this morning.

[From the New York Times, June 11, 2004]

#### A TROUBLING DISSENT

The Supreme Court did the right thing this week by staying out of a Colorado redistricting dispute. It properly deferred to the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling resolving the matter. What is troubling, however, is a dissent by Chief Justice William Rehnquist and two of his colleagues that argues for diving into the conflict. Given these justices' eagerness to defer to the states in other matters, the dissent smacks of partisan politics

and raises new concerns about the court's neutrality.

After the 2000 census, Colorado redrew its Congressional lines in a way that produced some real contests. One district was divided so evenly that Bob Beauprez, a Republican, won by only 121 votes. But when Republicans won the State Senate last year, they drew new lines that were more favorable to their party. The state's attorney general, a Democrat, challenged them in court.

The Colorado Supreme Court, in a well-reasoned decision, held that the redistricting violated the Colorado Constitution. It said the constitution required that redistricting be done every 10 years, after the census, but no more. The United States Supreme Court has long held that when a state supreme court resolves a case based on the state's constitution, respect for the state's judiciary requires the federal courts to stay out of the matter. A majority did just that this week, when it let the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling stand.

But Chief Justice Rehnquist's dissent, joined by Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, is bluntly dismissive of the Colorado Supreme Court. In the dissenters' view, the court was merely "purporting" to decide the case exclusively according to state law. They would have accepted the case so the United States Supreme Court could have considered reversing the Colorado Supreme Court and reinstating the pro-Republican redistricting plan.

The dissent attracted little notice because it fell one vote short of the four votes needed to review a case. But it is disturbingly reminiscent of the court's ruling in *Bush v. Gore*, in which five justices who had long been extremely deferential to state power suddenly overruled the Florida Supreme Court's interpretation of Florida election law.

Cases like these quite naturally invite skepticism. As the court learned in 2000, it does grave harm to its reputation if it appears to be deciding election-law cases for partisan advantage. In cases of this sort, the court must make a special effort to show that it is acting on the basis of legal principle, the only basis for a court to act. By departing from his deeply held belief in state autonomy to side with the Republican Party in a redistricting case, Chief Justice Rehnquist has once again invited the public to question this court's motives.

#### TO COMMEMORATE JUNETEENTH

### HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the annual celebration of African American Emancipation Day, also known as Juneteenth, had its origins in my congressional district. This Juneteenth celebration, a 130 year tradition beginning in Galveston, Texas in 1865, has grown into the nation's oldest and most widely celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery.

Today, Juneteenth celebrations are hosted in cities across America and beyond. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month-long celebration marked with music, festivals, and family gatherings.

Mr. Speaker, the growing popularity of Juneteenth celebrations signifies a level of growth and dignity in America that has been long overdue. People of all races, religions and backgrounds come together in celebration of Juneteenth to acknowledge a dark period of

our nation's history that continues to influence our society, and to try and make a significant change for the better.

The festivities in my district include the annual Juneteenth Jubilee Parade and Picnic, as well as the Gospel Explosion in the Park and Gospel by the Sea. In addition to the annual events, the African American Heritage organization will present the exhibit "The Making of an Underground Railroad: From Slavery to Freedom." Let us all take a moment to recognize this important holiday, and to continue moving forward in the spirit of freedom and understanding.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND AL  
JACKSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Al Jackson, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church in Auburn, Alabama, celebrates his 25th year in service to the congregation this year. In May, the congregation held a special celebration to commemorate this milestone, and honor a man who has given so much back to our community.

Born on October 26, 1948 in Florala, Alabama, Samuel Alto Jackson, Jr., has lived a long and prolific life in the ministry. In 1971 he graduated from Samford University and went on to earn his Masters of Divinity at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and his Doctorate of Divinity from the Fuller Theological Seminary in 1985.

Reverend Jackson has served many congregations during his lengthy career, including First Baptist Church in Florala; First Baptist Church in Selma; Carolina Baptist Church in Andalusia; Bethel Heights Baptist Church in Gatesville, Texas; and since 1979, Lakeview Baptist Church in Auburn as its Pastor.

Reverend Jackson has also helped train ministerial students, and has served on the board of Samford University. In addition, he has traveled around the world on mission trips, and is widely recognized in the Southern Baptist Convention for his teachings and his accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Reverend Al Jackson on this important occasion, and I thank the House for its attention in honoring a man who has lived his life as a shining example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTH JERSEY  
PHILHARMONIC GLEE CLUB

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cultural treasure in my district, the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club, as they celebrate their long and distinguished history on Saturday, June 19, 2004, with their 65th Anniversary Concert, "The Sounds of Broadway."

The North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club remains dedicated to the preservation of male

choral singing in America. Its members are unpaid, drawn to participation through their love of choral music alone.

Formed in 1939, the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club is one of the oldest all male singing groups in the Mid-Atlantic States. The group performs a wide variety of music, but maintains a focus on African American and European Classical music for the majority of its repertoire.

The group's performances reach audiences throughout New Jersey in schools, colleges and universities, churches, nursing homes, hospitals, health centers, community centers, and countless other venues where people gather to enjoy the rich culture of our State.

During the Post-World War II era, the Glee Club regularly performed on WNJR radio, and in one of its more memorable performances of that period, the chorus shared the stage with the great Paul Robeson. During the 70s and 80s, the Glee Club's performances paying tribute to African American composers were regularly featured on Suburban Cable (now Comcast) and the New Jersey Network (NJN).

Most recently, the Glee Club has appeared in programs that included Harry Belafonte, Smokey Robinson, Ben Vereen, Savion Glover, and gospel legend Shirley Caesar. They have performed at the White House, Lincoln Center, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), the Smithsonian Institution, the National Cathedral, Riverside Church, the Schomburg Center in New York City, and the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in my home town of Newark.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending thanks to the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club for their contributions to the cultural life of our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulations as they celebrate 65 years of musical excellence.

KASHMIR

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about India and to respond to recent remarks made on this Floor by Congressman Towns concerning the situation in Kashmir.

First, I would like to praise India, a vast country of over 1,000,000,000 people, for its recent successful exercise in democracy. The elections in India that concluded last month yet again demonstrated the strength and endurance of that country's democratic system and culture. India has been for 57 years the world's largest democracy, with a multiparty system in which all political views are freely expressed and respected. India's example of free and fair democratic elections, and respect for the rule of law, is truly an inspiration and model for the region and the world.

India and the United States share a special relationship as the world's two largest democracies. Our countries are natural allies, and we share the fundamental goal of building a peaceful and democratic world free from the scourge of terrorism. I am confident this relationship will continue to grow stronger because of the shared interests between our countries. Next, I would like to respond briefly to remarks made recently by Congressman

Towns about Kashmir. I believe his remarks demand a response given his inaccurate and misleading portrayal of the situation.

In his recent remarks, the Congressman referred to a "successful" hearing held recently on Kashmir by the Subcommittee on Wellness and Human Rights of the Committee on Government Reform. On the contrary, that hearing included the testimony of a number of witnesses whose views on Kashmir were so lopsided that I, along with a handful of other Members not serving on the Subcommittee, felt it imperative to be present and lend some balance to the proceedings. It is unfortunate that this hearing was used as a vehicle for propaganda—one witness even described the hearing as an exercise in India-bashing. It is especially disappointing because it compromises and undermines efforts by India and Pakistan to resolve bilaterally all issues between them. I would like to add here that eligible citizens of India, including in Jammu & Kashmir, freely exercised their right to vote in India's recent elections. Despite terrorist attacks that resulted in the killings of and injuries to government ministers, candidates as well as voters, the people of Jammu & Kashmir came out and voted, much as they did in late 2002 while electing representatives to their own State Assembly. This is much more than can be said of some other countries, where the military continues to dominate the political process.

The situation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir is primarily one of cross-border terrorism, sponsored from across the Line of Control and the International Border in the state by Pakistan. Starting in the early 1980s in the state of Punjab and then since 1988 in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan has consistently sought to use terrorism as an instrument of state policy in its dealings with India. The involvement of the Pakistani state in recruiting, training, indoctrinating, financing, arming and infiltrating terrorists into Indian territory is a matter of international and public record. In addition to this, the active Pakistani military, political and diplomatic support to the criminal Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which provided refuge to Osama bin Laden, is also well known.

Despite this record, the Government of India has sought reconciliation and repeatedly extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan. The previous Government in India had initiated this process and the new Government that has just taken office has reiterated its desire to build upon it. Indeed, the new Foreign Minister of India has just announced the rescheduled dates for talks on bilateral issues with Pakistan. These include talks on June 19 and 20 on Confidence Building Measures and on June 27 and 28 between the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries. India's approach is one of friendship and cooperation. The Government of Pakistan should respect the seriousness with which India is committed to engaging in this bilateral dialogue and play its part by living up to the commitments it has made to India and the international community, including the United States, most notably to create an atmosphere free from the menace of terrorism and violence in which the dialogue can be advanced.

India is the world's largest democracy and has stuck to its tenets for over half a century. It has institutions and processes in place that